

N. Korea's defense minister dies

SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korea announced yesterday the death of its powerful defense minister, and officials in rival South Korea forecast a "big shake-out" of Pyongyang's ruling elite sowing yet more uncertainty on the divided peninsula.

Choe Kwang, the third-top official in North Korea's Stalinist hierarchy to quit the scene in the past 10 days, widening cracks in the impoverished state's leadership.

Hours after the news of Choe's death, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and South Korean counterpart Yoo Chong-ha discussed steps to bring peace to the divided Korean peninsula.

Albright and Yoo told a news conference their governments had agreed to meet North Korean representatives to discuss a proposal for four-nation peace talks to include China.

Albright, who had arrived earlier in Seoul after a whirlwind tour of major European capitals, said US and South Korean officials would meet North Korean officials on March 5 in New York to brief them on the talks proposal.

A terse announcement by Pyongyang's official Korean Central Radio said Choe, 78, died of a heart attack on Friday.

This followed news of the replacement of ailing prime minister Kang Song-san, known to be suffering from diabetes and liver disease.

The previous week the communist nation's top ideologue, Hwang Jang-yop, took refuge in the South Korean embassy in Beijing where he remains, awaiting Chinese permission to leave for asylum in Seoul.

"Choe's death, Kang's replacement and Hwang's defection are likely to expedite an overall leadership change in the North," South Korea's Deputy National Unification Minister Lee Ho said.

He said Kang was ranked sixth and Choe seventh on a hierarchy list North Korea released last July on the second anniversary of the death of its founding leader Kim Il-sung.

Hwang, a senior advisor to Kim's son and political heir, Kim Jong-il, was ranked 24th in Pyongyang's power structure.

"Kim Jong-il could try to introduce generational changes and policy changes (in) appointing his associates," Lee said. "But such changes would work as destabilizing factors."

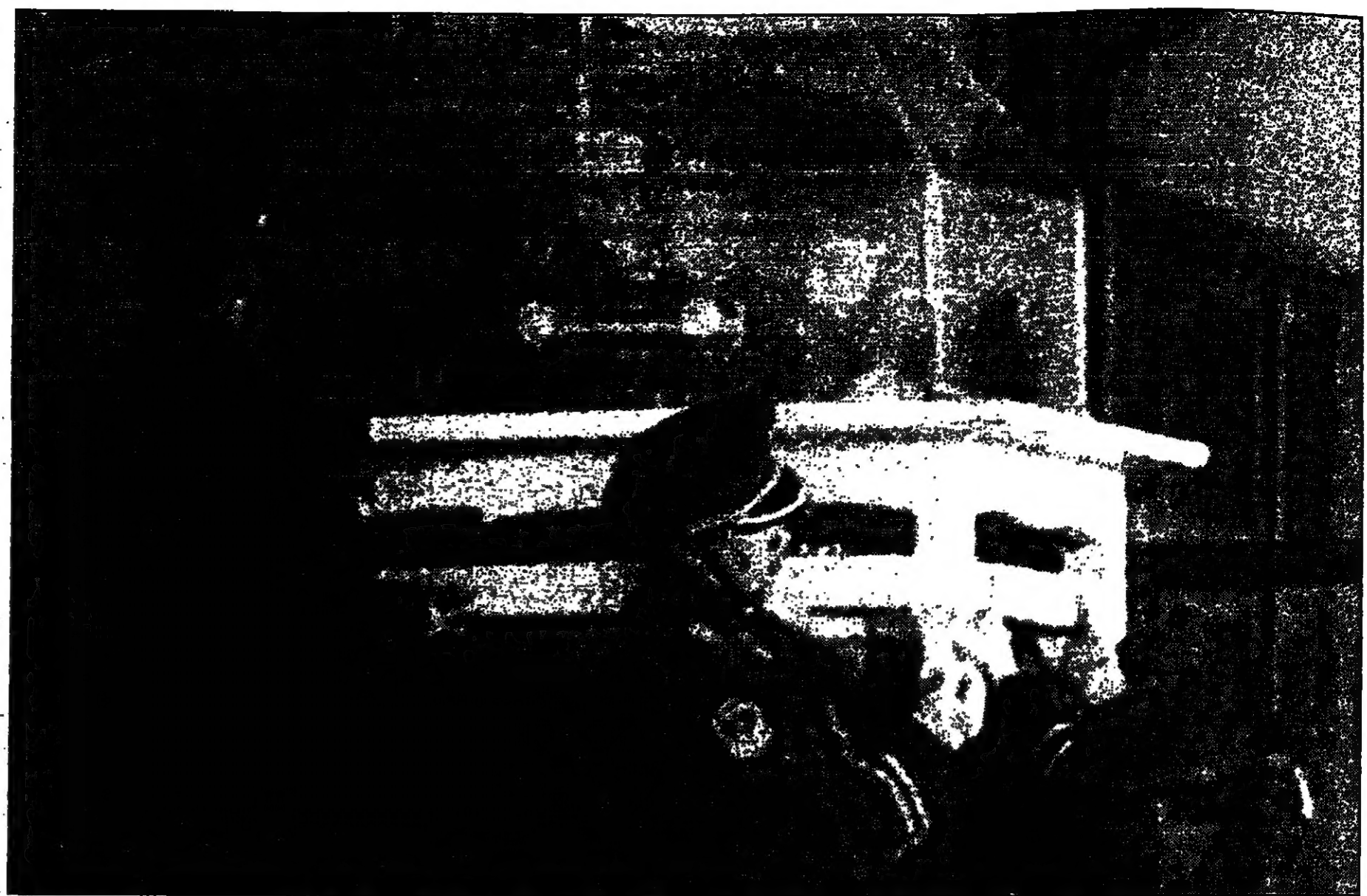
South Foreign Minister Yoo told reporters after his talks with Albright that the North's situation was volatile, adding: "We have to avoid any active and armed clashes" between the two Koreas.

Analysts said the departure of the three senior North Korean officials, all appointed by the late Kim Il-sung, would allow the junior Kim to place his own men in the vacant positions to push through his policies. But this could also spell a threat.

"The loss of these three old men means the weakening of Kim's power base among the men who fought alongside his father."

They are like the soul of the nation," said Hajime Izumi, professor of East Asian affairs at Japan's Shizuoka University.

Choe led a group of elders, survivors of the men who supported Kim Il-sung's guerrilla war for Korean independence from Japanese colonial rule in the 1930s and 1940s.



People's Liberation Army honor guards carry a glass coffin containing the body of another guard acting dead, during a rehearsal yesterday at the Baoboshan cemetery in Beijing, in preparation for the cremation of Deng Xiaoping. The cremation is expected to take place amid tight security tomorrow. Deng's body will be taken to the Baoboshan crematorium in the morning and a memorial service will be held the next day in the Great Hall of the People. (Reuters)

China's Jiang vows to outdo Deng on reform

By JANE MACARTNEY

BEIJING (Reuters) - China's President Jiang Zemin issued a pledge yesterday to outdo late paramount leader Deng Xiaoping in pursuing the capitalist-style reforms that his patron vowed would carry China through the next 100 years.

Jiang, who with Deng's death at 92 on Wednesday became undisputed the most powerful man in China, waited a scant two days before hinting that "the chief architect" of reforms that have transformed the face of China in just 18 years had only started a job that he (Jiang) meant to finish.

"We would run China's undertakings still better, and make greater contributions to the cause of peace, development and progress of the mankind," Jiang told visiting Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

To ordinary Chinese, Jiang's first public words following the death of the man credited with creating China's extraordinarily successful combination of communism and capitalism were an unmistakable rebuke.

"Of course that's a criticism," said a Chinese worker without hesitation.

However, Jiang was also swift to nail his colors to Deng's reforms and opening to the outside world that transformed an isolated Stalinist state into a fledgling economic superpower.

Jiang, who is also China's Communist Party chief and the head of the military, was hand-picked by Deng to be his successor and holds most of the cards needed to replace him.

But for some analysts, his swift attempt to assume Deng's

personal mantle smacked of arrogance that could prove dangerous if a power struggle were to erupt.

China's secretive leadership has projected an image of seamless transition following Deng's death, mindful of the political tumult that enveloped the country following the death of Mao Zedong in 1976 before Deng emerged.

But there were hints of discord even as the 92-year-old Deng lay dying.

The February issue of a magazine called Zhongguo, or Mainstay, controlled by ultra-leftists, obliquely criticized Deng's successor in what one political analyst described as "the first cannon fired by leftists at Jiang Zemin."

In China's arcane political world, power struggles are fought behind the scenes and traditionally emerge into the public eye only when they erupt in the state media.

The language used by the magazine was reminiscent of the chaotic 1966-76 Cultural Revolution that Mao used to purge his opponents, analysts said.

"The magazine is trying to stir up debate reminiscent of the Cultural Revolution... to oust Jiang Zemin," one said.

Clearly fearing a repeat of the student-led demonstrations that marked the last funeral of a party luminary in 1989, police threw a security net around Tiananmen Square in the heart of Beijing and plainclothes officers patrolled university campuses.

Deng's memorial rites are scheduled for Tuesday in the cavernous Great Hall of the People on the edge of the square.

Yesterday, a People's Liberation Army honor guard rehearsed the cremation that is expected tomorrow at a special cemetery for party heroes, shouldering a glass coffin

with a live soldier inside — apparently simulating China's late paramount leader.

State television has run endless paeans to Deng and showed formal mourning activities organized by Chinese officials in Hong Kong, Washington and other foreign cities.

At home, however, China has kept official reaction to Deng's death deliberately low-key, making little attempt to organize memorial activities that might spin out of control.

In central Beijing's Tiananmen Square, site of the 1989 student-led protests smashed by the military at Deng's behest, at least two people have been detained while trying to pay final respects to the late leader.

Tens of thousands of mourners thronged to the courtyard of his birth in his home village of Paifang in southwestern Sichuan province. In the Sichuan capital of Chengdu more than 10,000 people gathered in People's Square on Thursday to mark the passing of their province's favorite son.

In the southern boomtown of Shenzhen, a special economic zone near Hong Kong where Deng first experimented with grafting capitalist-style markets on to a socialist economy, hundreds of people filed past a giant Deng billboard which had been turned into a makeshift shrine.

In Shanghai, which quickly reverted to its nimble trading ways under Deng's guidance, the city's familiar profit mantra was joined by a new chant drifting skyward from the Jade Buddha Temple.

"The monks are praying for world peace and Deng Xiaoping," an attendant said. "So that Deng will go to heaven."

Russians remain critical of NATO

News agencies

MOSCOW - Russian politicians and newscasters remained highly critical of NATO's expansion plans yesterday, a day after new US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright completed her visit to Russia.

Albright tried to convince the Russians that they have nothing to fear from NATO enlargement, but made little progress.

A headline in the daily *Nevskiy Vremya* proclaimed that "Albright has failed to convince Moscow in the alliance's peaceful intentions." Another newspaper, *Soprotiv*, questioned the "cautious optimism" voiced by President Boris Yeltsin's spokesman after the talks and said positions of the sides appear to remain unchanged.

Moscow opposes the 16-nation alliance's plans to take in new members, including at least some of Russia's former allies. It views NATO expansion to the east as a possible security threat.

"All political forces, all branches of power (in Russia) are united in that military organizations should not be enlarged," Communist Party chief Gennady

Zyuganov said in Washington. In Geneva, visiting former Kremlin security czar Alexander Lebed, yesterday questioned the point of the joint NATO-Russian brigade as proposed by Albright.

The West was so worried about trying to calm Russian fears about NATO's eastward expansion that it sometimes lost common sense, he said.

"What are the objectives to be pursued by this military unit? Who will this brigade fight against?" Lebed asked, adding "This brigade is like a piano in the bushes."

Lebed, a strong presidential contender if ill health forces President Yeltsin from office, said Russia and NATO had nothing to fear from each other any more and they needed new partnership ties.

He said NATO wanted closer ties with Russia because it saw Moscow as indispensable for Europe's security, but he questioned the need for such a powerful military alliance in the post-Cold War era.

"NATO is a powerful organization but this powerful military machine is not needed any more. Russia is not an enemy of the West any more and it will never become one again," he said.

NATO-led peace force attacked for second time

SARAJEVO (AP) - A grenade was thrown at a NATO armored vehicle in the divided city of Mostar yesterday, the second attack on the NATO-led peace force in two days. No one was hurt in either incident.

The grenade was thrown from a white vehicle at an intersection in the western, Croat-controlled part of Mostar, the NATO force said in a statement issued in Sarajevo.

It landed besides the vehicle, manned by Italians on patrol, with-

out causing injuries or damage, the statement said. The troops were "not in a position to return fire, but attempted to intercept the white vehicle... without success," it said.

On Friday, two rocket-propelled grenades were fired at two vehicles patrolling the line dividing Mostar into Muslim- and Croat-controlled halves — the first open attack on NATO troops in the region since they were deployed in December 1995.

Scuffles in Cyprus during an anti-British protest

NICOSIA (Reuters) - Scuffles broke out and the Union Jack flag was removed from the car of the British High Commissioner in Cyprus during a demonstration yesterday against British military bases on the island.

INVITATION TO DO BUSINESS WITH CANADIAN COMPANIES

The Canadian Minister for International Trade, the Honorable Arthur Eggleton, will visit Israel between February 23 and 26 at the head of a delegation of 55 Canadian businessmen and industrialists from the following fields:

- Construction, building and engineering
- Fashion
- Food, fish, etc.
- Health Care
- Telecommunications and "Hi-Tech"
- Transportation
- Wood products, pulp and paper

Israeli businessmen who are interested in establishing contacts with Canadian businesses in the above fields are invited to call the Israel-Canada Chamber of Commerce at Tel. 03-620-2544, or fax 03-620-2513, as soon as possible.

Poking fun at politics is Jordan's new sport

By JAMAL HALABY

AMMAN (AP) - Stunned comedian Hashim Yanis expected the worst.

The star of a hit play that is giving Jordan its first taste of political satire, he was ready to go on stage one night — and as usual poke fun at Arab leaders — when King Hussein showed up.

To top it off, sitting next to the king was the chief of Jordan's feared intelligence agency. "I was scared like hell," the comedian said.

Yanis suddenly wondered if he'd been right to think Jordan had become liberal enough for his satirical comedy. It didn't help when someone shouted "What are you doing, Hashim?" as the comedian started to mimic the king's husky voice.

But Hussein "clapped, laughed and encouraged us," Yanis recalled.

"When the show ended, I shook hands with the king, then asked his intelligence chief, 'Should I go home or go with you?'"

Yanis and partner Nabil Sawalha, who wrote and performed the comedy *Welcome, Arab*, *Citizen Rights* see the king's reaction as a symbol of Jordan's growing tolerance in what remains a largely authoritarian Arab world.

"I can't imagine daring to speak

out the people's minds a few years ago without getting locked up," Yanis said.

Jordan's liberalization began seven years ago, when riots spurred the government to loosen its grip. It held the first parliamentary elections in 22 years and then allowed political parties, which had been banned since the 1950s. Four years ago it annulled the martial law that had been in effect since 1956.

Along with skewering Arab leaders, the play by Yanis and

Sawalha takes on other subjects — like premarital sex and political Islam — that are still taboo in much of the Arab world.

One of their targets is President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, whose name is more associated with fear than humor for most Jordanians.

In one scene, Yanis impersonates Hussein venturing into divisive territory — relations between Yasser Arafat and Jordan, where Palestinians make up more than half of the 3.8 million population.

"I envisage an independent Palestinian state," Hussein says at an imagined news conference with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"I and my brother Mubarak will build that state stone by stone," the king declares — a remark that would seem to leave out any role for Arafat.

An astonished Mubarak interrupts and asks: "What about Arafat?" "He will bring us the stones," a laughing Hussein responds, referring to the Intifada.

Committee to Examine the Status of the Insurance Agent in Israel

The commissioner of the Capital Market, Insurance and Savings Department in the Ministry of Finance, Accountant Doron Shorer, has appointed a committee to examine the status of the insurance agent in Israel.

The committee calls on interested members of the public to submit in writing their comments on the following subjects:

- The conditions for obtaining an insurance agent's license
- The responsibility and professional requirements of the insurance agent
- The legal status of the insurance agent
- Selling insurance other than through an insurance agent

A brief presentation of your viewpoints on the above can be sent in writing to the committee by March 15, 1997, at the following address: Committee to Examine the Status of the Insurance Agent in Israel, Capital Market, Insurance and Savings Department (Attn. Adv. Rahel Ratovitz), Ministry of Finance, 1 Rehov Kaplan, Jerusalem 91131, POB 13195, Jerusalem, or fax to 02-6521857.

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20,000 protest in Paris against 'racist' bill

By MATTHEW GLEDHILL

PARIS (AP) — Artists, intellectuals and simple citizens marched yesterday to protest a new immigration bill that opponents claim targets foreigners as scapegoats for French ills.

Despite last-minute changes watering down the bill, the protest movement took on a life of its own in a climate in which foreigners are increasingly blamed for society's problems and the far-right National Front is gaining ground.

Some likened the bill to World War II collaboration with the Nazis. "This (protest) is against a state of mind that says immigrants are automatically guilty of the problems in our society," said the noted French director Bertrand Tavernier. "This started a long time ago." The march from the Gare de l'Est train station to Chatelet, near Paris' City Hall, culminated a week of protests, including calls to civil disobedience, against the conservative government's proposed legislation that some claim is akin to denouncing foreign guests.

An initial police report put the number of demonstrators at 20,000, but the accuracy of the

count was not immediately clear.

Organizers had predicted up to 100,000 people would join the march, a festive gathering of young and old with music and chants.

"French Immigrants, Solidarity," the crowd cried.

One poster bore a portrait of World War II Vichy regime leader Marshal Philippe Petain with the sign, "Law Debre: Refuse to Collaborate." Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debre is behind the bill.

France's former first lady, Danielle Mitterrand, wife of the late Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, was among the marchers. Asked why, she pointed to her father, a civil servant.

"During the war," she told AP, "they asked him to denounce Jewish children and professors. If they (public workers) hadn't disobeyed: ... Let's follow his example." She had no comment on the original law, passed in the early 1980s under her husband, forcing French to get permission to lodge certain foreign guests from the local city hall.

The new bill would, in addition, have forced hosts to signal when the guests depart.

But that was done away with in an amendment proposed Wednesday. Lawmakers also decided to simply take responsibility

away from local mayors, elected officials who applied the lodging law capriciously, and put it in the hands of state-appointed governors.

Plans to further toughen immigration laws come amid new pressure from the National Front, which won a fourth city hall, in the southern town of Vitrolles, in a Feb. 9 election. The party, which blames crime and France's record 12.7 unemployment rate on immigration, wants to deport North African immigrants.

The protest movement started last week when a group of French film directors said they would disobey the law. The call to civil disobedience was then joined by French intellectuals, celebrities and members of the community at large, including some judges.

Police, following on the heels of a judges union, put out a petition Friday opposing the bill.

A poll by the Sofres firm conducted for the government and published yesterday showed that 61 percent of the 1,000 people surveyed are opposed to civil disobedience; 68 percent favor the fight against illegal immigration; and 67 percent are for the changes made to the bill. No margin of error was given, but in polls of that size the margin is usually plus or minus 3 percent.

German state to reveal payments to SS veterans

KIEL (Reuters) — A German state government said yesterday it would make public previously secret details of disability pension payments to veterans of Hitler's notorious SS now living in Denmark.

A documentary broadcast on Thursday by German regional NDR television reported the practice of keeping payments to SS veterans abroad secret, to protect them from possible reprisals.

The report unleashed protests from the opposition Greens in parliament, who said it was scandalous that German authorities should cooperate in shielding possible war criminals, particularly those who volunteered for the SS.

The SS was an elite force notorious for its brutality and unswerving loyalty to Hitler.

The state government of Schleswig-Holstein, which borders Denmark, said in a statement

it would not only transfer the money openly but also give Copenhagen the names of 29 Danish SS volunteers who were receiving the pension.

This would enable Denmark to consider possible prosecutions, the statement said.

Until now, the pensions have been transferred via the German Red Cross to an association of expatriate Germans, which then distributed the funds.



Free at last

Michael Hickey kisses the ground outside the High Court in London on Friday upon being released after being jailed for the murder of Staffordshire newsboy Carl Bridgewater 18 years ago, as his mother and cousin Vincent — who was also released, along with another man — look on. The case represents another humiliation for the British judicial system reeling from a succession of high profile miscarriages of justice in recent years. (AP)

Uproar over exhibit on German soldiers as Holocaust killers

By TERENCE PETTY

BONN (AP) — A World War II exhibit that unmask the regular German army as Holocaust executioners, not just dutiful soldiers, is raising a furor in Bavaria, birthplace of Hitler's Nazi movement.

Older Germans tend to view Hitler's regular armed forces — called the Wehrmacht — as an army that properly fulfilled its duties by battling enemy soldiers, while Nazi SS units carried out the fustier's plan to rid Europe of Jews.

That view is graphically rejected by an exhibit called *Extermination War: Crimes of the Wehrmacht 1941-44*. It documents killings of Jews, Gypsies and prisoners of war in the Soviet Union and the Balkans.

Featured are photographs of civilians being shot and hanged, Nazi military papers, and letters and diaries written by ordinary Wehrmacht soldiers recounting mass killings.

The exhibit's curator, Hannes Heer, said it is not intended to sug-

gest that every Wehrmacht unit was involved in atrocities.

Nonetheless, he said, the Wehrmacht did have a significant role in killing Jews and other civilians in the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

After traveling to 16 cities in Germany and Austria during the past two years, the exhibit opens tomorrow in Munich, Bavaria's capital. The display has caused a stir wherever it has gone, but nothing like the commotion in Bavaria, Germany's most conservative state.

Neo-Nazis are planning to travel to Munich from across Germany on Saturday for a march to protest the display.

"Our grandfathers were not criminals and we are proud of them," the protest's extremist organizers said in an announcement on the Internet.

Mindful of war veterans among voters, Bavaria's conservative governing party has criticized the exhibit, and, in turn, has drawn fire from leftists for siding with

right-wing extremists on the issue.

The uproar has given a black eye to Bavaria, a region of Lederhosen and Alpine vistas that would sooner forget that Hitler launched his Nazi party there in the 1920s.

The Wehrmacht exhibit was put together by German historians under the sponsorship of tobacco heir-turned-philanthropist Jan Philipp Reemtsma and will be shown at Munich's Ludwig-Maximilians University.

Historians have written before about atrocities committed by the Wehrmacht. But never have so many documents and photographs been gathered together to show the full scope of the army's involvement in civilian massacres.

"The Wehrmacht conducted no 'normal war' in the Balkans and the Soviet Union from 1941 to 1944," states a catalog showing material from the exhibit.

Heer, the curator, told *Der Spiegel* magazine, "The Wehrmacht was responsible for the death of up to 1.5 million Jews, 3.3 million prisoners of war and 5 million to 7 million (non-Jewish) civilians who all died as noncombatants."

Ruthless SS commando units called "Einsatzgruppen" conducted horrific killing campaigns against Jews in the Soviet Union. But soldiers in the Wehrmacht's 6th Army also participated, sometimes enthusiastically, the documents show.

A 6th Army soldier identified only as Franz proudly wrote to his parents on July 7, 1941: "So far we have sent about 1,000 Jews to the hereafter. But that's still too few." Another soldier wrote that his unit was ordered to execute 1,000 Jews in a single day.

"Children cling to their mothers, wives cling to their husbands" as they were gunned down, he wrote. Some soldiers showed up at the execution of Jews with their cameras so they would have keepsakes to show relatives. Apparently because the Wehrmacht leadership wanted to conceal its involvement, snapshots were eventually forbidden by a 6th Army document that is also in the exhibit.

In photographs and unit logs, the exhibit shows how the 342nd Infantry Division of the Wehrmacht operating in Serbia executed Jewish civilians in 1941.

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TELL ME WHY

Absorbing shock

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

When I wear a nylon or wool coat while getting out of my car, I get a shock of static electricity, but it doesn't happen when I get up from an ordinary chair. What is the reason? Is there anything I can do to prevent it? J.N., Jerusalem.

Two experts from Ben-Gurion University's electrical engineering department (who prefer to remain anonymous) reply:

We have noticed that phenomenon too, especially on a dry day. We think there are two factors. When the car travels, it encounters friction with the air and the tires rub against the road. This friction results in the production of static electricity. When you touch the door, your body serves as a conductor, and you get a shock (which is not strong enough to be dangerous).

Static electricity is the movement of electrons from one substance to another due to friction; you can run a comb through your hair and, especially on a dry day, see that the comb becomes charged and picks up paper or even attracts a stream of water running from a tap.

You can attach to the bottom of the car a special grounding strip, available in shops, that releases static electricity from the car into the road. In addition, the seat covers in your car are probably made of synthetic material. When it rubs against your coat, either wool or nylon, the friction produces static electricity. Synthetic materials such as polyester produce static electricity more than natural materials like cotton. You can get cotton seat covers. There are also anti-static sprays on the market that may be helpful, but they have to be used periodically.

I work in a clinic for alcoholics. I have noticed that almost all of them smoke. Is there a connection between addiction to nicotine and to alcohol? Arie, Tel Aviv.

Prof. Sergio Marchewski, chief psychiatrist at the residential center of the Israel Association for Prevention of Alcoholism in Ramat Gan, replies:

There is definitely a statistical connection. Research around the world has shown that most alcoholics smoke — and usually very heavily. The reason could be phys-

iological as well as psychological. Apparently there is a genetic connection underlying the fact that people addicted to tobacco and other drugs tend to be addicted to additional things as well — even gambling or shopping. It may also be psychological, as addicts have dependent personalities.

When an addict is treated for a certain addiction, it doesn't mean that he will quit the other. Each substance provides the person with its particular physiological or psychological support. Our center, for example, doesn't bar smoking, because addicts have a lot of crises, and it's difficult to stop two addictions at once. Not everyone wants to stop smoking after giving up hard drugs, even though they know they'll be better off. They use smoking as a crutch; the most effective rehabilitation deals with the basic problems in their life that push them to addiction.

Regarding the last column's question about why the elderly feel time flies, 86-year-old reader Peretz Levinger of Yokne'am comments:

We ought to distinguish between perception of what I call "actual time" and recollection of the past. Actual time is the present; if it's full of events that are important to us, time flies. In retrospect, this very time — which has become past — appears long, exactly because it contains much and is "full." Old people don't usually experience much, and therefore, actual time creeps for them. When they are still active it takes them longer to perform a given activity. This explains the oft-heard claim by pensioners that they never have been as busy as since they retired. But active or not, retrospective time appears to have vanished into a void, because it is — more or less — empty. It can be compared to a monotone landscape where the eye does not find points of attraction.

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer: Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, 91000 Jerusalem, fax it to (02) 538-9527, or send it by e-mail to jusie@post.co.il. Please include your first name and place of residence.

On-line greetings and a surf through the family album

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

When Israeli leaders boast of imaginative and talented young high-techies who are turning the country into the Silicon Valley of the Middle East, Avi and Ofer Tenenbaum would serve very nicely as an example.

Their five-year-old startup company in Petah Tikva — delightfully named Pineapple — is constantly spinning out new ideas combining the Internet, animation, computer communications and interactivity that is making even companies like Disney, Southwestern Bell and American Greetings sit up and take notice.

Ofer was 20 and just out of the army when he persuaded his older brother Avi — who has a BA in economics and Far Eastern studies (with a major in Chinese) and an MA in business administration — to join him in setting up a computer business.

Avi, now 33, took the bite, and is now chief executive officer of the company which totaled \$1.5 million in sales last year and whose growth charts point upward.

Ofer, who has no formal degree but took many courses in computers and design, is president, and their talented sister Tali is a graphics designer. Altogether, there are 23 staffers in the company, whose CEO can be considered "old" since the average age is 28. Many are women, and some studied graphics at the Bezalel Academy of Art. Not all have a computer background; "we showed the ropes to those who proved themselves," Avi says.

The envisioned aim of the company, which has its US headquarters in San Francisco, was to offer interactive solutions for companies — tools to manage, view and use information, to present something on screen in an imaginative, graphic way," explains Avi.

"It took us a while to find our niche. We had a lot of ideas, such

as electronic Yellow Pages, electronic newspapers, of people being able to access information on their TV or computer screen at home. And then came the popular use of the Internet which allowed us to produce things for the on-line market. We picked Pineapple as a symbol, because it's a symbol of hospitality worldwide."

Among Pineapple's products are "guided tours" of clients' companies, explaining their products and services to staffers and potential customers; Internet and Intranet (computer communications within an organization) solutions; and the design of "interface" for products (suiting them for touch screens, TV remote, voice control and the mouse); and even real-time on-line broadcasting systems for TV stations.

But the products that will most interest the average layman are its animated greeting cards which can be personalized and sent over the Internet to the person you love or admire — or be put on a diskette as a unique gift presented by hand or delivered by mail.

The greeting-card idea began when Tali was doing sketches in the US for companies making conventional greeting cards. Although far-flung Americans send a lot of e-mail, many millions dispatch paper cards for a personal touch; computerized animated greeting cards make the most of both proclivities. Two years ago, the Tenenbaums approached the greeting-card giant Hallmark Cards, which sent them away, saying they weren't enthusiastic about the idea, but if they became so, would carry out such a project in-house.

Then they met Maury Weiss, chairman of the Cleveland-based American Greetings. Undeterred by the brothers' youth, Weiss was captivated and signed up Pineapple to produce a variety of designs.

Scores of designs, listed by subjects like birthday, congratulations, holidays, romance, get-well, anniversary, wedding and thank-you, can be viewed at



Pineapple has created a card that serenades the user with "Happy Birthday" over the Internet.

American Greetings' Internet site (<http://www.greeting.com>).

Just click on a subject, and you can see a three-frame color design, with a textual summary of the content. If you download the Shockwave program, you can view an actual animated segment of the greeting, personalize it with your name and that of the recipient, and send it off through cyberspace.

The recipient receives notice by e-mail where to look, and he can save it in his computer or on a diskette and look at it again whenever he wishes. The charge for each card is \$1.95, paid on-line via credit card.

The cards are full of humor, some corny, some not: a lonely-looking man is shown in a grayish tableau; click on various parts of the picture and they turn into a rainbow of color, which is what the recipient's friendship does for the sender.

A bee buzzes over a jar of apricot preserves; suddenly, it falls in and asks the recipient to click the keys on a phone to call for help. The bee is saved by a rescue team, and thanks its friend for "always getting me out of a jam."

To be serenaded with "Happy Birthday" by a choir of frogs on rocks in a pond, click on them in the right order. They're all in English so far, and include Christian and Jewish holiday themes as options, but Pineapple — which has sold some 30,000 so far — intends to offer other languages (Hebrew first, of course) very soon.

Pineapple (its company site is at <http://www.pineapple.co.il>) also sells CD-ROMs on various themes (at \$24.95 apiece) that let you produce personalized animated greeting cards on your own computer to send via the Internet or store on a disk.

The Tenenbaums say some

companies abroad offer greeting cards over the Internet, but none produce animated ones like theirs.

One company had the audacity to steal their product, offering an animated message for \$9 apiece. Pineapple, which scans search engines for greeting-card companies, caught him and demanded that he stop.

The Walt Disney company was so impressed that it asked Pineapple to produce cards based on its movie characters, and in 1994, the Aurec group in Israel bought 50 percent equity, giving Pineapple access to its owners Southwestern Bell and Golden Lines.

Pineapple's next big project is "Family & Friends," a personalized Internet site for families and other close groups who live in various parts of the country or the world and rarely have time to get together.

The site, which starting this spring should be accessible at no cost, will present a graphic design that is essentially a "virtual home." You click on the mailbox and read messages sent to you by other members, or a picture album to see photos of the grandchildren fed into the computer. You click an icon to send faxes to your inner circle, a second to have an electronic chat or another to conduct electronic banking inside your personal account.

Only those given access to the site will be able to get into it, but once in, you can reach many places, especially the "electronic mall."

This is what pays for the project: an airline lounge for ordering tickets; a supermarket or department-store chain for making purchases by credit card or (eventually) electronic money.

Avi Tenenbaum says the Internet, with its vastness and strangeness, scares many people. Presenting them with a homey site like this will eliminate the anxiety and make them feel as comfortable as pulling up a chair in their own living room.

HEALTH SCAN

Martial arts good for the elderly

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

Tai chi is an ancient Chinese technique of martial arts; odd as it may seem, it can be a useful weapon in the battle against falls by the elderly. The *Journal of Family Practice* presents an article from the *Journal of the American Geriatric Society* showing that tai chi can reduce frailty and falls in older people.

Anyone visiting China can see old people rising with the sun and meeting in groups for 30 minutes to an hour of tai chi exercises. It's comprised of slow, delicate motions meant to improve balance and awareness of the body.

The research team, headed by Dr. S.L. Wolf, divided 200 Americans over the age of 70 into three groups: one did tai chi exercises, the second computerized balance exercises and a third, a control group, received only verbal explanations of the need for physical activity. In the tai chi group, the rate of falling was a significant 47.5% less than the other two groups. Another benefit was that their systolic blood pressure was reduced by an appreciable amount, as was their fear of falling.

Dr. Andre Marston, a family medicine specialist at Tel Aviv



A study shows that tai chi can reduce frailty in older people.

University's Sackler School of Medicine, said it's incredible no one thought of this before. Simple intervention, without advanced technologies, may be the most important technique for reducing injuries from falls in the elderly and giving them self-confidence in their movement. He suggests the health system adopt the idea and organize trainers to disseminate the tai chi method in homes for the elderly and physiotherapy institutes.

Western medicine has already adopted Chinese medicine; now is

the time to find a place for tai chi as well," he wrote.

OH, MY ACHING BACK

Some 80% of all adults will suffer at least one bout of lower-back pain in their lifetime; half of them will have repeated attacks. The problem is caused by a number of factors, including the weakening of muscles that surround the spine, muscle cramps, strain or tears in the muscles, damaged or misplaced cartilage and problems with contact between the vertebrae.

Kupat Holim Clalit's health education department has published a Hebrew-language booklet on lower-back pain, including ways to prevent and treat it. It explains when and whom to turn to for help for each type of pain, do's and don'ts and recommendations regarding exercise. Written by a Clalit team of family-medicine specialists, orthopedists, physiotherapists and health education experts, it is available free from the health fund's clinics and is posted on its Internet site at www.klalit.co.il.

(Jacob Kazi)

DISC-COVERY

Your very own computer garden

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Catalog Pirhei Gina (Garden Flower Catalog), a Hebrew-language CD-ROM by Q Multimedia, distributed by Matrix Multimedia, for all ages, NIS 69. Rating: four-and-a-half stars out of five.

This bargain-priced disk is like a cool breeze in a hamun, and would appeal to anyone who likes flowers, even hay-fever victims and people lacking a "green thumb." The first disk of its kind in Hebrew, it is very well done, and can serve as a model for digitized catalogs on single subjects. It starts with an eye-catching, three-minute color video film, showing a number of plant varieties growing outdoors, complete with pollinating bees making a visit. Some are closeups with speeded-up action: petals unfold from tight buds in a matter of seconds.

After this appetizer, users can examine hundreds of different types of flowering plants that grow in Israel, listed in Hebrew in alphabetical order. Clicking each one produces color photos (enlargeable to full screen size), plus Latin names, planting and flowering seasons, planting instructions and fertilizer, either in short form or in several Hebrew paragraphs.

The flowers are also categorized by topic: color, season, life cycle, form of growth and amount of light they need. You click on any of the categories, and in a second, dozens of types fitting each category are listed and displayed in boxes for the user to choose from.

You can select your "ideal bloom" by narrowing down the selection by choosing from a series of categories. All the textual information can be printed out. After going over all the varieties and choosing which are suited to your garden, the finalists in this heavy contest can be stored in a second section called "My Garden." The disk advises on what types of plants look good and grow well together.

Now, if only Q Multimedia can find a way to add the flowers' fragrances as well, this disk would deserve a five-star rating.

Baba Yaga Veba' avazim Hamechushafim (Baba Yaga and the Magic Geese), a CD-ROM for pre-school children, translated into Hebrew from the Davidson company's English disk, and distributed by Mirage Multimedia, NIS 159. Rating: Two stars out of five.

Russian folk tales apparently were scary to deter young children from doing forbidden things and

encourage acceptable behavior. This disk is based on one such tale, a one-dimensional story about an ugly witch called Baba Yaga who catches children and puts them in cages (the story line is not much different from Hansel and Gretel).

The story is told in only 12 frames by a grandfather mouse sitting in his parlor. A barefoot girl named Tasha is told by her parents to take good care of her younger brother, Nikki, while they go off to the village. She's more interested in her doll, so when she's not looking, three white geese dispatched by Baba Yaga fly off with the poor boy.

With advice from a friendly owl, Tasha finds the witch's cabin, which is conveniently unoccupied, and steals away her brother. Baba Yaga and the geese follow their trail. In each case, a friendly river, a tree or a furnace make the children invisible. In the end, the furnace informs the witch that the children

are inside, and once she crawls in, she is magically transported to a desert island, where she is caught upside down in a tree. The relieved geese fly the coop, and Baba Yaga is "never heard of again."

The story can be put on automatic shift, with Grandpa Mouse narrating the simple story frame by frame (each word of the single sentence given for each frame is highlighted in blue, but the Hebrew letters are small and unwieldy, thus young children won't be able to learn reading from this); users can also choose any page to go to, or take the more active option of clicking on objects to see sight gags like a flying squirrel or an inflated pig.

The animation and music are pleasant — but there are no games and no educational message except to do what you are told. If you have NIS 159 to spend on a disk for a child, other CD-ROMs are a better investment.

NEW WORLDS

Dead Sea area saved from mosquito plague

By POST SCIENCE REPORTER

A quick-thinking scientist at Ben-Gurion University saved the Dead Sea area from being infested by mosquitoes as a result of heavy rains in January.

Prof. Yoel Margalit, who heads the Beersheva University's center for biological pesticides, initiated spraying of the Sdom area with a bacillus, which caused the destruction of mosquito larvae that hatched due to the moisture.

Large numbers of mosquito eggs were laid last winter, but they remained dormant until the last couple of weeks when larvae began to emerge from the eggs. After being alerted by Margalit, the

Tamar regional council and the Dead Sea Works carried out the spraying which is harmful only to the larvae but not to other parts of the ecosystem. The BGU scientists discovered that this specific type of bacteria produces stomach poisoning in the larvae alone.

The spraying campaign cost several thousand dollars, and not only wiped out the mosquitoes before they could take flight, but has reduced the risk of more mosquitoes developing in the area in the future. Margalit said that before the spraying, seven to 10 larvae were found in each half-liter sample of flood waters; after the campaign, none were present.

Margalit spoke at a recent workshop on destroying insects in the

Dead Sea rift, which was attended by scientists from BGU, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and Harvard University. He heads the Israeli research team for this project.

HI-TECH FAIRGROUNDS

Tel Aviv's Fairgrounds are the site of dozens of international exhibitions each year. But its communications system has, until now, been more suited to the early 20th century than to the 21st. One of the most sophisticated telecommunications systems in the world — with 900 phone lines instead of the existing 60 — will soon be established by the Tel Aviv Municipality's fairgrounds company and Bezeq-Kol. The new infrastructure, costing

\$1 million, will supply integrated services digital network (for the sending of video, stills, text and sound over a single line), Internet access, communications among computers and multimedia.

Buyers attending exhibitions will be able, for example, to hook their laptop computers into a plug and communicate with their companies around the world. Mobile phones can be provided to visitors so they can be in touch while moving around.

Since politicians and would-be politicians are well known for their love of digital communications devices, the fairgrounds also hope to attract political events such as primary elections and party conferences.

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A great, but flawed, reformer

Unlike Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, a simple man with a peasant's soul, had no literary pretensions. Yet his memorable parable of the cat probably will live longer in Chinese history than any of Mao's poems or Little Red Book homilies.

Deng was mocked and criticized by Mao for his startling and dangerous political philosophy: "It matters not whether the cat is black or white as long as it catches mice." On this homey one-liner was built the overthrow of Marxist economics and the most astounding capitalist boom of any time or place. With this feline thought, the foxy Deng became the successful economic ying to Mao's failed political yang. He may not have had Mao's vast charisma and awesome historical record, but neither did he have Mao's maniacal ego or the monumental idiocy that could conceive a pig-iron factory in every backyard to replace food production, or an insane and bloody "cultural revolution" - both of which killed millions of Chinese.

The dark stain on Deng's record was of course the brutal crushing of the Tiananmen Square democracy movement in 1989. Apologists for Deng say he was not directly responsible, or if he did order the square cleared of protesters, it was not he but brutal military hardliners who ordered that it be done so ruthlessly. History will make the final judgment but the action bore all the hallmarks of a peasant peevish and angered because his grand public reception planned for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had been spoiled by a bunch of unruly students and their foreign media agitators. Whatever the measure of his involvement, as paramount leader he bore ultimate responsibility and the incident marked the great reformer as seriously flawed. He could never see that for democrats, it was not the color of the cat that was at issue, but its liberty.

However, probably more than any leader who ever ran a modern non-democracy, Deng also deserves due credit for his towering achievements. He has left the Chinese people better fed, better off, and better equipped to face the future than at any time in their long history. However much we in the West continue to criticize Deng's failure to introduce democratic reforms alongside economic ones, the fact is he succeeded most spectacularly where Russia failed. The Russians may have more freedom and democracy - but the average Chinese citizen is more comfortable and tens of thousands of Deng's black-white cats have become millionaire fat cats.

Never before has a Communist leader in a large, important nation died and left behind him such a stable political atmosphere, rapid economic growth and a general feeling of security. That is Deng's legacy and the extent of such an achievement in a country like China may only become apparent should it all unravel with his passing.

The secretive bureaucrats who now inherit the

lives of China's 1.2 billion people also inherit a booming economy, a flood of foreign investment, and a serious voice in world affairs. In a few months time they inherit Hong Kong - the biggest golden goose ever created and successfully weaned from Britain under Deng's innovative formula of "one nation, two systems." If they do not squander the inheritance, and the formula keeps Hong Kong free and prosperous, it holds the promise of a similar solution for Taiwan.

That "if" is but one of the many surrounding post-Deng China. As well as his achievements, the Chinese leaders face not only the unsolved problems of the past, but the new problems that face developed countries, too. There are signs of growing ethnic tensions in China's outlying regions, a huge gap between the fat cats and the have-nots, high-level corruption, and a growing crime wave.

There are also problems at the leadership level. The great show of unity following Deng's death is a fig leaf covering the petty rivalries, policy disagreements and widespread corruption at the top. The signs of discord may stay masked for the funeral arrangements, but the mask is thin - even under China's archaic mandarin system of fighting court battles in secrecy, far from the view of the prying public. A new issue of issue of a magazine called *Zhongguo* (Mainstay), the voice of the far left, already has fired shots over President Jiang Zemin's bows this week. The language used by the magazine to criticize Deng's successor was eerily reminiscent of the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution used by a paranoid Mao to purge his opponents. There certainly is no guarantee that because China is doing so well economically, its unreformed political system cannot self-destruct one more time.

Jiang issued a high-profile promise yesterday to outdo even Deng in pursuing the economic reforms. While that may be music to capitalist ears in the West and Asia, it should not necessarily be taken as good tidings. Jiang said he would "run China's undertakings still better, and make greater contributions to the cause of peace, development and progress." He should perhaps have added "if I'm allowed to." Chinese saw a hint of arrogance in Jiang's pronouncement, since it is by no means certain that he has the grip on ultimate power that he indicates. They also were somewhat startled to hear the unmistakable tone of criticism in Jiang's words before the late leader is even laid to rest. It appeared to Chinese ears that the man who forged China's first true "great leap forward" by welding capitalism to communism had done an inadequate job, and the task requires a Jiang Zemin to do it properly.

Of course Jiang may be right - he may have secured the backing of the relevant military and political kingmakers behind the scenes, and he was after all hand-picked by Deng to be his successor. But who even remembers who were the great Mao's chosen successors?



DORON & MENES

Netanyahu's next hurdle

After completing the Hebron agreement and putting through a 1997 budget containing very significant cuts, Benjamin Netanyahu now faces a test of his commitment to an open, competitive and efficient market economy.

In a recent meeting concerning the planned sale of a large, state-owned Bank Hapoalim stake, Netanyahu and his economic advisers faced the grim reality of an economy dominated by three large, interlocking bank groups.

The banks are nominally owned by the government, which took them over in 1983 when they collapsed as a result of manipulations of their shares by their managers.

Some of these managers have since been tried and convicted for their roles in the "bank shares scandal." Although the government owns them, the banks are in fact controlled by their self-perpetuating managements, and the public interest is nowhere to be seen.

These three banks, Bank Hapoalim, Bank Leumi and Bank Discount, control 80 percent of Israeli bank assets. Bank Hapoalim alone has 40 percent. Bank Hapoalim manages the bulk of the country's pension and provident funds, effectively controlling Israel's savings industry.

The three banks control more than half of mutual fund assets, dominate the stock markets through their role as the major stockbrokers, and, especially Bank Hapoalim, dominate much of Israel's industry through shareholdings by subsidiaries and associated holding companies.

A similar situation in any other democratic country would lead to fears that democracy was being endangered, and to calls for immediate anti-trust action.

The banks here also own sprawling non-banking holdings, a situation which has had mixed results.

Israeli banks recently presided over a series of operating losses and large write-offs in Scitex, once a flagship of Israeli high-tech success.

Shareholders of Scitex have watched in dismay as its shares have dropped by 75 percent in the last four years, while the company went through endless reorganizations and a failed takeover bid in

DANIEL DORON
JACK MENES

its undignified struggle to survive. Bank control of industrial companies has been successful in areas such as construction materials - particularly cement - and telephone switching equipment, where these companies enjoy a monopoly of the local market and can maintain prices well above world levels. The price, of course, is paid by the public.

**Israel's future
prosperity largely
depends on the
breakup of the
bank-led cabal of
vested interests**

Bank dominance of the financial markets has crippled the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

In recent years the turnover of Israeli shares listed on NASDAQ in the US has typically been three to four times the total turnover in Tel Aviv.

Nor have the three large banks been notably successful at running their own affairs. Since the bank shares scandal that led to their collapse in 1983, Bank Leumi has lost \$300 million of its shareholders' (that is, the Israeli taxpayers') money in an ill-considered venture into big-time banking in New York.

Bank Hapoalim branch managers encouraged their customers to enter into stock speculations they did not understand and could not afford, and investment managers at all three banks were discovered manipulating shares for their own benefit, for which they are now on trial.

THESE three banks and their associated holding companies are the core of the monopolized, cartelized and special-interest-ridden structure of Israel's economy. They are the cause of Israel's stagnant productivity, its inability to maintain high growth in per capita GDP, and its widening trade gap (over 10 percent of GDP) and balance of payments

problems. Privatization of the three large banks is the largest single item on the Netanyahu government's economic agenda. It must be pursued diligently, but also intelligently, with a view to the future.

Israel's future prosperity is in good measure dependent on the break-up of the bank-led cabal of vested interests. These interests are now pushing for immediate privatization of the banks in their present form, hoping thus to maintain their grip on the Israeli economy.

Once the banks are in private hands, invocation of private property rights would subject government-ordered divestment to interminable litigation, making it almost impossible.

Furthermore, even if the government could impose divestment after privatization, it would be very difficult to prevent the sale of bank assets from one bank to another or to straw men, as has happened in the past. Such sweetheart deals would cause severe political damage, and seriously compromise further efforts at privatization.

The government, as majority shareholder, now has a last chance to separate Bank Hapoalim from its industrial holdings and, most importantly, eliminate its dominance of Israeli financial markets, by divesting it of its remaining non-banking holdings.

Netanyahu knows that Israel's strength and security are dependent on a prosperous, growing economy. Without it Israel will not be able to afford the growing costs of defense, keep its young people at home, and attract and absorb vital immigration.

Netanyahu and his government now have the choice of either privatizing the banks as is, or doing it right by first wresting the banks of their assets.

The second path will take more effort, but it will result in the transformation of Israel's economy to one that is open, competitive and efficient, as befits a country that aims to be part of the world economy.

Daniel Doron is director of the Israel Center for Social and Economic Progress. Jack Menes writes on economic affairs.

Star turn

STEVE SATTLER

We do it every day, unthinkingly. We take small change from our pockets to pay for a newspaper, for a cup of coffee.

An integral part of civilized life for over 2,500 years, coins are more than just a means of exchange - they provide "free advertising" for a culture, a king, or a state. A coin's design will frequently reflect a message the leadership wants to propagate among the people.

In antiquity, coins would feature the heads of national leaders. Popular too were animal and bird designs. These last were judged neutral and "safe." Lacking political overtones, they wouldn't antagonize neighbors.

Jewish coins from the Maccabee era and, later, from the Bar Kokhba revolt display fruits and other agricultural products, as well as the Temple, showing where the leadership's allegiance lay. Coins produced by Jewish authorities over this 350-year period never feature human faces or heads.

What about one symbol we here in Israel see in one context or another all the time, the six-pointed star, or Magen David?

This star has been part of mainstream Jewish culture for over 500 years. Today the chief symbol of the Jews, their state, their flag and their culture, it has, surprisingly, never featured on a Jewish coin in common circulation.

Neither the Maccabees nor the Bar Kokhba leadership produced a coin bearing the six-pointed star; the modern State of Israel has never minted a coin or come out with a banknote boldly incorporating the Magen David in its design. (The only banknote with a Magen David is the blue 5,000 old shekel Levi Eshkol note - and there the star is tiny and almost invisible.)

The only Jewish coin to have featured a Magen David is the rare Lodz ghetto 10 mark of 1943, produced by ghetto fighters during the Holocaust. It was never widely circulated.

HISTORY is known for strange twists and ironies.

As the first wave of Crusaders

**A coin has two
sides - but in
modern Israel
neither has ever
shown a
Magen David**

was settling in the Holy Land after 1,150 CE, the Kurdish warrior Saladin, becoming sultan of the northern Moslem world, began to issue coins from his mint in Damascus. Their design? A prominent six-pointed star.

Many more coins were struck at Saladin's main mint in Aleppo, most featuring this same star. In Arabic, the symbol was - and is - referred to as the Star of Solomon.

When Saladin died in 1193, his successors, al-Zahir and al-Aziz, continued to mint these coins, called dirhams. Very common, they circulated all through the Orient. Some also circulated through Northern Europe and Spain.

Not to be outdone, the Egyptian Mameluke sultans likewise issued many kinds of coins with a six-pointed star. Struck in Egypt and Syria, they were mostly made of copper. In Egyptian Arabic, they are called Solomon's Seal (*mahr suleiman*).

In the last 90 years, some modern countries have also issued coins bearing the six-pointed star. Nigeria, British West Africa and French Morocco, have minted them in copper-nickel.

The US also minted such a coin, in silver. And modern independent Morocco issued the six-pointed star in bronze and silver. All these coins were issued for common usage.

For many, the Magen David has come to represent the idea of Jew and Jewish. So why has the State of Israel never issued a coin featuring it?

In their quest for self-determination, the Palestinians have not been slow to seize upon the use of symbols. They are certainly just waiting for the moment they can mint coins bearing their own national symbols.

Israel has much on its mind these days. But in view of the current negotiations, we would be less than wise not to make sure that our coins begin carrying this important national symbol.

A little free advertising never hurt. We must show our neighbors that we are a proud nation, living in our land, the land of our culture and our history.

If the Magen David was good enough for the Sultan Saladin, it should be good enough for us.

The writer is a dentist and historian living in Jerusalem.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOT AN ISOLATED PHENOMENON

Sir, - All who love Israel can be thankful to *The Jerusalem Post* for publishing the article by Ann Hutchings (February 4), a Christian friend of Israel who described the humiliating harassment that she has suffered for five years in the corridors of Israel's Interior Ministry. Now reader Martha Lev-Zion writes to claim (February 10) that "the universal struggle against bureaucrats" is "no worse here than it is elsewhere."

Ms. Lev-Zion is doubly wrong and triply complacent. In many democratic countries, a foreigner who has lived for five years and become integrated has a good chance of acquiring citizenship. Here, on the contrary, length of residence is seized upon as a reason for picking on some Christian who has performed good services for Israel and driving him or her out of the country.

Nor has it anything to do with suspicions that such a Christian is a missionary. On the contrary, there are well-known Christian missionaries who constantly get renewed visas, as do anti-Israel propagandists. It is precisely altruistic friends of Israel who become targets for the bureaucrats.

The experience of Ann Hutchings is not an isolated phenomenon, but one of scores of such cases. Various

Jewish and Christian organizations in Israel have collected considerable documentation about them over the years. Within the last 18 months, however, the situation has got even worse. Also Christian institutions dealing with Christian students and pilgrims are now being ordered to send away veteran expatriate employees.

Complacency comes in if Ms. Lev-Zion imagines that all this is not doing Israel great harm. For various reasons, the maltreatment of people like Ann Hutchings is a public relations catastrophe.

First, as part of the upcoming struggle over Jerusalem, a worldwide campaign has begun claiming that Israel is systematically expelling all the Christians of Jerusalem and the Holy Land. As major Christian newspapers take up the allegations, I am receiving desperate faxes from people who want to refute the charge, but am helpless to respond. We are told: "Seeing how Israel treats its friends, we can believe anything about how Israel treats Arabs!"

Second, average Israelis have no idea how much hostility to Israel abroad is mitigated by the activities of senior officials whose Christian faith makes them love Israel. Nor do they know how much Christian benefactors give

in financial support for Israel, e.g. in public projects in the Jerusalem area. All this is endangered when cases like Ann Hutchings become known.

Third, there are international Christian organizations that mobilize funds for aliya and Israelis below the poverty line. One such organization, which brings tens of millions of dollars to Israel, was recently told insultingly: "Actually, you don't need an office here. Why don't you send your staff of Christian volunteers home and just give money to Israeli institutions?"

Fourth, the Israeli tourist industry is gearing up for the massive influx of Christian pilgrims expected for the millennium. Recently, Israeli officials came to a Christian institution asking for advice and help. Right now, that same institution is struggling to reverse the decision to end the visa of a senior employee. Commented one Christian present: "They are asking for help while sending us all away!" With so much alienation being created among Christians, that massive boost to the tourist industry might just not happen.

M. LOWE

Jerusalem.

THE ZIONIST RELIGIOUS CAMP

Sir, - In his article of February 10, "Hint of crime and punishment," Rabbi Michael Boyden has maligned the entire modern Orthodox knitted or not knitted kippa-wearing youth of this country. To use his words, "I heard that they read Psalms in their yeshivot and study houses [meaning the baredim] and held a prayer session at the Western Wall, but physically they weren't with us." That so-

called prayer session was the Mincha of Yom Kippur Katan (a minor day of atonement held before each new moon). It was led by Rabbi Mordechai Elon, Rosh Yeshiva of the Zionist Horev high school, where 95 percent of the boys go on to serve in the army. Furthermore, had Rabbi Boyden checked who was at the Wall, he would have found out it was the youth of the Zionist yeshiva high

schools, and ulpanot for girls, most of whose fathers serve in uniform and whose mothers did some form of national service. To equate the above with other sections of the religious public is insulting in the extreme, and downgrades the image of the Zionist religious camp.

JOSEPH LUNZER

Jerusalem.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Just another church - until you lean against the walls. The entire 15-meter-high Helsinki building is made of snow. It is a replica of the Uhrika Eleonora Church, which stood on the site a century ago. The frozen version is used for wedding ceremonies.

(Reuters)

Playing before a disappearing audience

The breath of Yiddish theater being felt in New York could be the last, Kathy Willens reports

Time and age are taking their toll on the Yiddish theater, thinning the ranks of its most famous figures. And with few young performers speaking the language or learning its special craft, the venerable institution has a worried eye on the future.

Currently, a troupe of actors ranging in age from 24 to 79 is drawing audiences to New York's Folksbiene Theater, or "People's Stage," now in its 81st year and the oldest continuously running Yiddish theater in the United States.

While the Folksbiene is not without backers, general manager Elyse Frymer said it needs a permanent space and funds to go on the road every so often.

But the biggest problem, she said, is finding young actors who speak Yiddish. Only three to four million people speak it today, scholars say.

Rachel Botchan, who stars in the current production of *The Maiden of Ludmir*, does not speak it.

Trained in Shakespeare and classical theater, she answered an ad in a trade paper, sang a Yiddish song that she knew, and got the part.

"For the audition they had two scripts, one in English and one in transliterated Yiddish," said Botchan, 24. "I had a pretty good idea of what I was saying."

The Folksbiene was founded in 1915 by Jewish immigrants. Many of the founders had performed professionally in their native countries but began here as unpaid amateurs. Originally on New York's Lower East Side — then the center of immigrant Jewish life, now dominated by Chinatown — the Folksbiene eventually moved uptown.

Since 1973 it has used a 400-seat auditorium in the second basement of midtown Manhattan's Central Synagogue. The season runs from October through January, with all productions in Yiddish. Patrons can get earphones for \$2 to hear simultaneous translation in Russian or English. Today's actors, all professionals, play to 300 people on a good night — but sometimes to empty seats, or a house "papered" with friends, relatives and freebies.

The Maiden of Ludmir, a mildly feminist musical drama by Yiddish



Rachel Botchan, who does not speak Yiddish, performs the lead role in the Folksbiene Yiddish Theater's performance of *The Maiden of Ludmir* in New York, while senior citizens from Philadelphia enjoy the show.

scholar Miriam Hoffman, is based on the life of Khane Rukhl Vebermakher, who was born in Ukraine at the turn of the 19th century and "dared to become a rabbi" after experiencing a vision.

At a recent matinee, the audience consisted of senior citizens' groups from Philadelphia and New Jersey, Orthodox Jews from Brooklyn and Queens, and 30 Russian immigrants who understood the dialogue well enough to doff their headphones.

"It harkens me back to my youth. It gives me the warm fuzzies," said Josephine Mazur, who grew up in a Yiddish-speaking neighborhood of the Bronx.

"It's not only the language that's so wonderful but the gestures and body language," said her cousin, Ruth Gollub.

Bernard Mendelovitch, a 71-year-old Yiddish theater veteran from Bourneville, England, appears in a guest role as Reb Motele, the famed "Rebbe of Chernobyl" who

was Vebermakher's real-life mentor. "Yiddish is not the richest of languages as far as the number of words it contains, but it's much richer in expressiveness than any other language I can think of," he said. "You simply add a shrug of the shoulders or a gesture with one hand, and that can speak volumes."

Polish-born Zypora Spaisman, at 76 a 41-year veteran of the theater and according to Frymer its "guiding force," recently recalled her 1956 debut in a production called *The Lonesome Ship*. "At the time we didn't have a theater, we played in the 'Y' on Stanton Street," she said in an interview. "Downstairs, they're playing ping-pong."

Upstairs, they're playing handball. Every time they bounced the balls, it made the ship rock — the vibrations were so strong. It was so realistic, people wanted to know how we did it! They thought it was part of the act."

Spaisman also recalls that after playing one part — a poor, shabbily dressed town gossip — two women met her outside the theater with stockings and blouses. "You make us laugh, you make us cry. You're so poorly dressed, we brought you these things," they said to Spaisman.

Mendelovitch, who was drawn to London's Yiddish theater at age 22 and witnessed its virtual demise many years later, said working again in New York was "like a fish being thrown back into the water."

The Folksbiene has a wonderful sense of togetherness, he said. "This gives me new hope for the future of Yiddish theater. They're such young and gifted actors. They're all willing to listen to those of us with more experience."

Said Mina Bern, 79, who plays a woman whose husband has been reincarnated as a rooster: "I think as long as there will be one Jew, Yiddish theater will survive."

(AP)

Reviving Yiddish in Bucharest

In Romania, the future of Yiddish Theater seems slightly brighter. Actors at the Festival of Jewish Theaters recently converged on Bucharest for the second year, with the single-minded aim of promoting Yiddish. Bucharest's polished Jewish State Theater played host to groups from Ukraine, France and Israel.

Many of the actors have no Jewish background but learn enough to play their parts — often coached by one of the troupe's few native speakers. "I've been Jewish for about four years now," joked Julia Gavril, a regular performer at the Bucharest theater. "I came to this theater because the working atmosphere was so good."

Constantin Dinulescu, a distinguished Romanian actor, learned from scratch his role as an elderly rabbi in *Uriel Acosta*, a 19th-century tragedy about a Jew who refuses to recant.

Tel Aviv's "Yiddish Spiel" group performed traditional songs guaranteed to make any Jewish mother weep. Its directors call for maintaining the "roots" of Yiddish song and literature and offered help to others struggling against long cultural and often financial odds. But the Romanians, Ukrainians and French would rather look to the future. "We can't behave as though we're living in a museum," Harry Eliad, the Bucharest theater director, said. "We have to get people to learn Yiddish through new means."

Georgy Melsky's young, and penniless, Mazetov troupe from Kiev consists mainly of inexperienced but hard-working actors fresh out of university. "It's not easy performing in a Yiddish-language theater in Ukraine, but we try hard," said Kiril Bin after a performance of a modern melody of songs and verse called *I am a Jew*.

"Some of us are Jewish but most aren't. We don't even have a theater." Performers in France have things easier, but not much. "Sure it's hard to be a Yiddish-language actor in France. There's simply no one to perform with," said Rafael Goldwasser, an Argentine-born Jew who works in Strasbourg and put on a one-man show at the festival. "So I do bilingual performances and of course perform in other theaters. But it's like a spark. If you blow on it, the fire won't go out. Certain small details remain deep in my subconscious and that's what I draw on for my performances." (Reuters)



HEADS 'N' TAILS

Quarantine aquaria

By DYORA BEN SHAI

While a few people who keep aquaria are real fish lovers and breeders, to most of us an aquarium is merely a visual centerpiece. Consequently, a good many people who keep aquaria have never read anything about them and are totally unaware of some of the things they should know. Sometimes this lack of knowledge results in unfortunate situations.

Such was the case of a neighbor who had an aquarium in her living room but within a few days almost all her fish died. About two weeks before, she had bought a new pair of fish and some water plants from a pet shop. The new fish were apparently infected with a disease, either bacterial, viral or fungal, and they infected the whole population.

The only possible way to avoid this is to quarantine all new fish and snails for between two and three weeks before introducing them into the aquarium. If after

the quarantine period they are still healthy then they can be introduced into the aquarium. This is simple if you have a second aquarium, but if you don't, an ordinary goldfish bowl or a large glass jar will suffice. If the container has an adequate diameter with enough surface area at the top of the water (approximately four square centimeters per fish) then you don't need a spare aerator, and if you confine your new acquisitions to the summer then you also can get by without an extra heater.

Be sure to keep the quarantine chamber in a shady area so that it will not get too warm, add a few healthy floating plants from the main aquarium and feed the fish a good diet, but feed them lightly. Observe them every day for signs of illness including white dots on the skin which signify a fungal infection, extreme reddening of the gill slits and/or swollen gills that stand out from the body, which may be either a bacterial or fungal infection, and for signs of lethargy, increased transparency

or what appears to be a lack of orientation and erratic swimming, which usually indicates a viral or possibly bacterial disease.

In the case of new snails, just watch to see if they are moving about and feeding. Since some snails only feed at night, check the aquarium late.

New plants also can infect an aquarium if they have been in an environment where there were sick fish. It is a good idea to disinfect new plants.

First, soak the plants for half an hour in a container containing one tablespoon of chlorine bleach to a liter of cooled, boiled water, remove them from the solution and rinse well with running water.

Then leave them in a solution of one teaspoon of table salt per liter of water overnight, rinse them and they should be safe to introduce into the aquarium.

None of these procedures are difficult and in many cases they can save the loss of an entire aquarium of beautiful, and expensive, fish and plants.

EU clears rules on gene-modified foods

The European Parliament recently cleared controversial rules for marketing and labeling genetically modified and other "novel" foods in the European Union. Genetic engineering allows beer to ferment faster, cheese to mature more quickly, pigs to grow larger, tomatoes to age more slowly and cereals to resist pests.

A large majority of Euro-MPs voted in favor of the legislation, despite criticism from environmental groups that its labeling requirements were too lax.

The vote, 339 to 60, was critical since the parliament had the power to block the legislation.

The parliament's move was welcomed by a biotechnology industry group, EuropaBio, which said it was a "vital" piece of legislation that would make industry more confident about how to bring new foods to the market. But it was

blasted by Greenpeace, which has led Europe-wide protests against gene-modified crops and foods. It called it a "slap in the face for European consumers."

Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, a German Socialist who was in charge of the legislation, told the assembly the final compromise — worked out with EU governments — was inadequate but urged Euro-MPs to accept it rather than leave a legal vacuum. Her report argued that consumers, manufacturers and traders all wanted binding EU-wide rules on labeling novel foods and that even imperfect legislation was better than a situation in which the EU had a single market but 15 different national laws.

The regulation, which directly replaces national rules, requires manufacturers to indicate to consumers when a product contains a "live" genetically altered element — that is one that can grow if given

soil or water. They will also have to label novel foods shown by scientific analysis to be significantly different from conventional foods. The wording of these labels will be largely left up to the manufacturers.

Foods produced using genetically altered raw materials which are no longer present in the final product, such as milk from cows fed on genetically modified grains, will not be labeled.

The regulation says bulk deliveries containing both conventional and genetically modified types of soya, maize and other goods do not have to be labeled, so long as "information for consumers on the possibility that genetically modified organisms may be present" is provided.

Producers can market novel foods which are "essentially equivalent" to traditional ones so long as they notify the European Commission. These will not be

labeled and will not go through rigorous health and safety tests before authorization.

"Industry will be more confident now of the basis on which novel foods can be brought to the market," Andrew Dickson, secretary general of Europa said.

But Greenpeace cited a survey released last week showing that 59 percent of Danes, Dutch, Frenchmen, Britons, Italians and Swedes opposed genetically engineered foods. (Reuters)

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Grobelaar defense makes closing arguments

WINCHESTER (AP) — The defense told jurors in a soccer match-fixing trial Friday that the prosecution had failed to offer proof that games had been thrown.

The prosecution has alleged that former Liverpool and Southampton goalkeeper Bruce Grobelaar and former Wimbledon 'keeper Hans Segers were paid to influence the outcome of games on behalf of an Asian betting syndicate.

The trial is scheduled to resume tomorrow with further defense closing arguments. The case is expected to go to the jury later in the week.

"The prosecution have hedged, saying they cannot show any game was actually thrown," defense attorney Jerome Lynch said in closing arguments. "The overwhelming evidence has been that nothing untoward was done by any of the players."

NBA individual leaders

(Through Wednesday's games)

SCORING	GP	PTS	AVG	REB	AVG	AST	AVG	STL	AVG	BLK	AVG
Michael Jordan, CHI	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Scottie Pippen, CHI	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Charles Barkley, PHI	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Shaquille O'Neal, LAL	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Grant Hill, DET	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Hakeem Olajuwon, HOU	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Gary Payton, SEA	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Kendall Gill, MIN	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Tom Gugliotta, MIN	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Allen Iverson, PHI	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Reggie Miller, IND	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Vin Carter, MIL	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Grant Hill, DET	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Patrick Ewing, NYK	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Glenn Robinson, IND	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Shawn Kemp, SEA	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Laphonso Ellis, DEN	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Terrill Brandon, CLE	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Alonso Mourning, MIA	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Chris Webber, MIA	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Joe Smith, WAS	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Scottie Pippen, CHI	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Damon Stoudamire, TOR	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Tim Hardaway, MIA	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Steve Smith, ATL	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Charles Barkley, PHI	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Chris Gatling, MIN	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Jerry Stackhouse, PHI	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6
Junwan Howard, WAS	51	25.5	25.5	10.0	10.0	5.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	0.6	0.6

REBOUNDING	GP	PTS	AVG	REB	AVG	AST	AVG	STL	AVG	BLK	AVG
Dennis Rodman, CHI	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Jason Williams, MIN	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Charles Barkley, PHI	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Shaquille O'Neal, LAL	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Dikembe Mutombo, ATL	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Antoni Davis, MIN	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Mark Price, GSW	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Patrick Ewing, NYK	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Vin Carter, MIL	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Grant Hill, DET	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Patrick Ewing, NYK	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Glenn Robinson, IND	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Shawn Kemp, SEA	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Laphonso Ellis, DEN	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Terrill Brandon, CLE	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Alonso Mourning, MIA	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Chris Webber, MIA	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Joe Smith, WAS	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Scottie Pippen, CHI	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Damon Stoudamire, TOR	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Tim Hardaway, MIA	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Steve Smith, ATL	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Charles Barkley, PHI	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Chris Gatling, MIN	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Jerry Stackhouse, PHI	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Junwan Howard, WAS	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6

ASSISTS	GP	PTS	AVG	REB	AVG	AST	AVG	STL	AVG	BLK	AVG
Mark Jackson, DEN	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
John Stockton, UTAH	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Patrick Ewing, NYK	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Kevin Johnson, PHO	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Damon Stoudamire, TOR	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Nick Van Exel, LAL	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Grant Hill, DET	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Tim Hardaway, MIA	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
David Wesley, BOS	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Gary Payton, SEA	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Stephon Marbury, MIN	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Avery Johnson, SAS	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Allen Iverson, PHI	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Tyrese Dugas, CHA	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Grant Hill, DET	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Kenny Anderson, POR	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Gary Payton, SEA	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Terrill Brandon, CLE	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Lafayette Soler, GSW	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Chris Childs, NYK	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6

STEALS	GP	PTS	AVG	REB	AVG	AST	AVG	STL	AVG	BLK	AVG
Michael Blaylock, ATL	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Eddie Jones, BOS	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Rick Fox, BOS	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Gary Payton, SEA	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
David Wesley, BOS	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Gary Payton, SEA	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Allen Iverson, PHI	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Kenny Anderson, POR	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Gary Payton, SEA	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Terrill Brandon, CLE	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Lafayette Soler, GSW	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6
Chris Childs, NYK	51	32.6	32.6	6.6	6.6	5.5	5.5	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6

NBA standings												
EASTERN CONFERENCE						WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic Division						Midwest Division						
	W	L	Pct	GB			W	L	Pct	GB		
Miami	41	13	.759	—			Utah	38	14	.731	—	
New York	39	15	.722	2			2	Houston	35	19	.648	4
Orlando	26	25	.510	13			3	Minnesota	27	27	.500	12
Washington	24	29	.453	16 ½			1	Dallas	17	33	.340	20
New Jersey	15	38	.283	28 ½			2	Denver	38	30	.559	22 ½
Philadelphia	13	39	.250	27			3	San Antonio	13	39	.250	25
Boston	11	42	.208	29 ½			4	Vancouver	11	46	.193	29 ½
Central Division							Pacific Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB				W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	47	6	.887	—			1	L.A. Lakers	35	15	.717	—
Detroit	39	13	.750	7 ½			2	Seattle	37	15	.712	½
Atlanta	35	17	.673	11 ½			3	Portland	29	25	.537	9 ½
Charlotte	33	21	.611	14 ½			4	Sacramento	24	30	.444	14 ½
Cleveland	29	23	.558	17 ½			5	Golden State	21	25	.450	15 ½
Indiana	27	25	.519	21 ½			6	Phoenix	29	31	.482	11
Milwaukee	25	28	.472	22								
Toronto	18	35	.340	29								

Betar Jerusalem unable to regain winning form

By DEKEL PATAI and ONI LEVY

The wheel of fortune created a crop of new multi-millionaires this weekend as eight winners shared the NIS 22.7 million prize that turned the country into a nation of gamblers during the course of last week.

On the field, the bitter winter weather kept the fans away. Only 17,000 spectators passed through the turnstiles at the National League's grounds - the lowest aggregate attendance recorded this season.

At the top of the table, Betar Jerusalem's winter blues continued. The former-undefeated registered their third straight game without a win, being held to a 1-1 draw at Maccabi Herzliya thanks to a injury-time goal by Herzliya substitute Yair Simhon.

Second-placed Hapoel Petah Tikva at last took advantage of Betar's frustration by beating neighbors Maccabi Petah Tikva by a solitary goal, to slash Betar's lead at the summit to a mere 2 points. Hapoel Beersheba continued in top gear, with a convincing 3-0 home victory against Bnei Yehuda.

The surprise of the 19th round came at Beit She'an where Hapoel ended 2-1 winners against Maccabi Haifa.

In the Second Division, the two relegation battles between the bottom-four clubs were both postponed due to the inclement weather conditions.

At the top Hapoel Ashdod beat fellow promotion hopefuls Maccabi Netanya 2-0, while Ironi Ashdod ended 2-0 victors over Hapoel in the Ashdod derby.

Maccabi Herzliya 1
Betar Jerusalem 1

Betar's luck is slowly but surely beginning to drift away. Maccabi Herzliya opened strongly, coming close with a fiery shot by Yaniv Cohen in the 10th minute.

As the rains began to lessen around the half-hour mark, the Jerusalemites began to find their touch, but were still confined to a couple of long-range free kicks from Itzik Zohar in the first half.

Herzliya's Oleg Neduda nudged the ball over the Betar bar in the 40th minute. The game began to heat up after the interval as Betar

pressed Shuli Gilardi's goal. Gilardi saved well from a long-range Zohar kick then performed another athletic save in the same play to deny David Amalek's stinging shot from the rebound.

Stefan Sela should have put the table-toppers ahead in the 56th minute but wasted his effort. Six minutes later Jerusalem captain Eli Ohana found the back of the Herzliya goal sweeping the ball past Gilardi from six meters out in a crowded goalmouth to the delight of the Jerusalem fans who had made the journey through the storms from the capital to the coast.

The Herzliyan's three substitutes Yair Simhon and Roman Filipchuk into the fray in an effort to tie the scores.

Persistence finally paid off in injury time when a poor headed clearance by Ohana off a Herzliya free kick lobbed high into the area. Guy Gant eventually fell to Simhon. Simhon seized the moment and steered his shot into goal for the equalizer.

Betar threw everyone forward in the remaining two minutes of additional time. Nir Sevilla might have stolen the winning goal at the very end but Gilardi and perhaps Lady Luck had a hand in ensuring that both sides ended with a point apiece.

Maccabi Petah Tikva 0
Hapoel Petah Tikva 1

Hapoel Petah Tikva never stretched itself in this derby meeting played in a constant downpour. The title-chaser's superiority was never in doubt as it did just enough to cruise to victory.

The winning strike came early in the proceedings. A shot in the 8th minute by Shlomi Ben-Hamo from

outside the box slipped out of the grip of Maccabi goalie Golan Malul, and the rebound was immediately picked up and blasted into goal by Motti Kakkon for his 12th-league goal of the season.

On the quarter hour Maccabi's Edan Tal saw a good long-range effort fly less than a meter over the upright. Hapoel's next serious opportunity came at the end of the first half as a Walid Badir header necessitated a flying save across the goalmouth by Malul. Tal had another chance to make his mark for Maccabi 22 minutes into the second period but fired wide from an excellent position.

Right at the close Hapoel had to weather a couple of tight situations, but had a goal been conceded it would have been a gross injustice.

Hapoel Beersheba 3
Bnei Yehuda 0

Buoyed after last Saturday's upset win over leaders Betar Jerusalem, Beersheba came out with all guns blazing yesterday afternoon. Beersheba showed it had every intention of demolishing the visiting side from the Hapoel Quarter as it laid siege on the Bnei Yehuda goal.

The all-out attacking strategy didn't take long to pay dividends, and Gadi Hazut put the hosts ahead on 25 minutes from very long-range free kick which kept low and gave Bnei Yehuda goalkeeper Liran Strauber no chance.

Although the team did not score any more goals in the first half, Bnei Yehuda was never allowed to threaten Beersheba seriously. A minute after the restart, Beersheba was rampant once more and Shai Holtzman got his name on the score sheet when a perfect long

pass up field from Sergei Solov allowed him to cut through the Bnei Yehuda defense and slot the ball home.

Croatian import Giovanni Rosso scored Beersheba's third nine minutes later when he waltzed past the Bnei Yehuda defense to put the match well out of Bnei Yehuda's reach, at which point the visiting manager Ya'acov Grundman made substitutions to reinforce his defense and prevent a rout.

Maccabi Tel Aviv 6
Zefirum Holon 0

The turning point in the game came in the 18th minute when Holon's central defender Roman Petz was adjudged to have committed a foul in the area in circumstances that did not appear too clear from the terraces.

Petz was shown the red card, and although Holon's goalkeeper Alexander Zhidkov managed to save Gadi Brumer's penalty kick, he and his defenders had no answer to the onslaught that came their way as the match progressed.

Eli Dris opened the floodgates in the 37th minute when a pass from Nir Klingler beat Holon's attempted offside trap, and allowed Dris to drill the ball into goal. Hajaj one of Maccabi's best players added the second just before the end of the first half.

After the break the game turned into a celebration for Tel Aviv's Ofir Mizrahi who ripped the Holon defense to pieces with a hat trick completed with two goals in the last six minutes as the match came to a close. Hajaj netted his second of the game in the 74th minute of play.

Although 11 points presently separate Maccabi from the league

leaders some optimistic Tel Avivians will have left the stadium wondering whether the champions have time to mount a belated defense of their title.

Hapoel Jerusalem 1
Hapoel Tel Aviv 0

After four matches in charge, Dror Kashtan is still looking for his first win with Hapoel Tel Aviv. The sale of the club to private investors has still to manifest itself in the "games won" column, but if fortunes do not improve, and the club is relegated, the sale could very well be canceled.

Hapoel Jerusalem is surprising everybody, including itself as it continues to notch up wins, thereby trying to assure itself of another season in the National League.

Yesterday's game at Teddy Stadium was watched by under 500 spectators, but the three points gained by Jerusalem - against a club struggling to avoid relegation - will go a very long way towards ensuring the team of another season in the top flight.

Assi Tubi, who was an excellent purchase by Jerusalem coach Yossi Mizrahi from Hapoel Kfar Sava during the mid-season break, scored the all-important winner in the 75th minute in a match which was generally as dull as the Jerusalem weather yesterday.

Ironi Rishon 1
Hapoel Kfar Sava 1

An uninspiring first half was transformed at the beginning of the second when substitute Ofir Cohen put the visitors ahead with a very well executed goal in the 47th minute.

But Kfar Sava's lead lasted just five minutes as Rishon was sparked into action. The equalizer

came on 52 minutes when Rishon's scoring ace, Nissan Kapeta, received a perfect cross from the left, and from six meters out, with only Kfar Sava's keeper Eran Seinzinger to beat, made no mistake as he slotted home.

Rishon tried very hard to find a winner, but luck was not on its side, and neither, apparently, was referee Hannan Sonneti. He turned down a clear penalty for Rishon. Kfar Sava remained on the defensive for the rest of the match, but managed to hang on and gain the lone point.

Hapoel Haifa 2
Hapoel Taiba 0

Many Toto punters saw Taiba as potential upsetter of form in this weekend's action, after all, it won the first league encounter with Haifa against the odds 3-2 earlier this season. As it has so often in the past, Taiba managed to hang on to a 0-0 scoreline until the final stretch, when everything went wrong.

Hisham Zuabi scored for Haifa on 70 minutes when he rose high to meet a cross from Oren Flisch

on the right to head powerfully into the Taiba goal. Ten minutes later, Haifa secured all three points when Zicjko Zupetic scored from close range.

Hapoel Beit She'an 2
Maccabi Haifa 1

Beit She'an once again had the measure of Haifa, and inflicted further misery on the visitors on Friday afternoon. For a change, Haifa played well, but luck was not on its side.

Beit She'an went ahead after 27 minutes through Shimon Danan. Haifa immediately began to try and equalize and had several chances, two were especially close in the early stages of the second half.

The 1-1 scoreline was finally achieved in the 72nd minute when Amir Turjeman headed in a cross from Avishai Janno. Neither side was prepared to settle for a share of the points, and on 80 minutes, substitute Hanoach Meraro scored for the hosts, who ease their relegation worries with a valuable three points off a side struggling to find their form.

Runners fight blowing wind, sand in Ein Gedi Race

By HEATHER CHAIT

While the rest of the country was battling the rain yesterday, the Ein Gedi runners were engaged in their own version of Operation Desert Storm.

Over 800 runners fought the gusty winds and swirling sands in the 15th Ein Gedi Race, held in the memory of Giora and Tomer Ron.

Kenya's 29-year-old Bernard Boiya won the 21.1 kilometer half-marathon in 1:07:34 with Morocco's Chaham el Matti close behind on 1:07:40.

Russians Muhamet Nazipov and Igor Isoumov were third and fourth respectively in 1:08:20 and 1:08:29.

First Israeli home and taking fifth place was Assaf Bimro in 1:08:43.

The first five runners were together most of the race, passing the half-way point as a unit but near the 14km mark, Boiya and el Matti, both visiting Israel for the first time, pulled away from the pack.

At 20km, Boiya stole away from the Moroccan, maintaining the lead until the finish line.

"I'm very happy I won, even in the strong wind," said Boiya after the race, "I'll be back next year."

Bimro, competing after three weeks of no training due to flu, was pleased with his time but complained that the runners had been given water in glasses, instead of bottles.

"You can't drink from a glass while running," he said, adding, "I nearly dehydrated."

Helena Barocsi, from Hungary, won the women's half-marathon for the second successive year in 1:16:24. Second was Ella Krims in 1:20:56.

Barocsi bettered her time from last year but claimed that without the wind factor, she would have set a new record.

Both the men and women winners finished outside the course records of 1:04:14 and 1:14:41 respectively.

The 10km race was won by Ayalah Setine for the second year in 32:22, with Amir Ne'eman second in 32:52.

Idit Ganot Keren-Zvi won the women's 10km event, a second for her also, in 39:38 with Anita Peres behind on 39:47.

Ziv Bar-Shira won the wheelchair race and Beduin runner Hamuda Nabin won the 2km children's race in 7:41, beating the boys in her event.

Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Sport Moshe Feled presented the prizes.

The winners in the half-marathon received NIS 3,000 each.

Nahum breaks national triple jump record

Rogel Nahum set a new national record yesterday in the triple jump event at the Dutch athletics indoor championships held in Amsterdam.

Nahum's distance was 16.84 meters, an improvement of 15 centimeters on his own previous record set in 1993.

Another record fell yesterday to Yosef Gizaich in the Russian indoor championships in the 800m. Gizaich finished fifth out of 60 runners in a time of 1:52.62, smashing Noam Dara's time of 1:54.00.

In Stockholm, high jumper Constantin Matushevich took third place with his best jump this year, 2.23 meters, also in an indoor competition.

Heather Chait

Torre gets 2-year extension

NEW YORK (AP) - After leading the New York Yankees to their first World Series title in 18 years, manager Joe Torre was rewarded with a \$2 million, two-year contract extension through 1999.

Torre is due to receive \$550,000 this season as part of a \$1.05 million, two-year contract.

"It's hard to say no to Joe after what he did," Yankees owner George Steinbrenner said Thursday. "We have a good relationship."

NHL RESULTS

FRIDAY'S RESULTS: Hartford 7, N.Y. Rangers 2; Buffalo 5, N.Y. Islanders 2; Dallas 4, Calgary 2; Colorado 4, Edmonton 3 (OT).

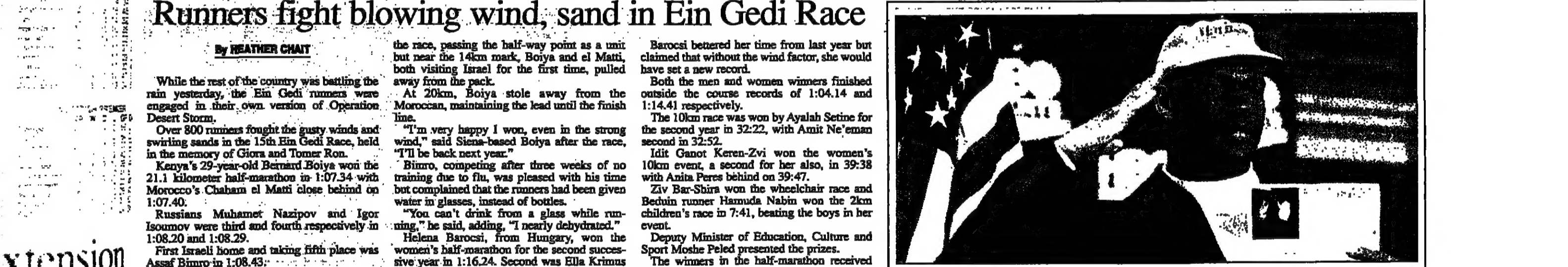
THURSDAY'S RESULTS: Tampa Bay 5, Philadelphia 2; New Jersey 2, Florida 2; Chicago 5, Boston 3; Ottawa 1, St. Louis 1; Vancouver 6, San Jose 1; Los Angeles 3, Anaheim 1.

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Bowe bows out
Former heavyweight champion, Riddick Bowe, couldn't cut it as a US Marine. He quit after just 11 days of basic training. Bowe left Friday, telling his commanders that the regimen was too strict, that he missed his family and that he wished he'd enlisted when he was younger. (Reuters)

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Am Israel Paper Mills	44.5	-0.5
Am Israel Paper Mills	44.5	-0.5
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NASDAQ

Amgen	45.0	-0.375
Amgen	45.0	-0.375
Amgen	45.0	-0.375
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Amgen	45.0	-0.375
Amgen	45.0	-0.375

INTERNATIONAL
SHARES

LAST CHANGE

Amgen	45.0	-0.375
Amgen	45.0	-0.375
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NEW YORK

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WALL STREET REPORT

Tech shares see sell-off

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks edged higher Friday despite a sell-off in technology shares, while bonds rose moderately in quiet trading.

The dollar eked small gains after Thursday's sharp slide, casting doubt on the sustainability of its recent strength.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 4.42 points to close at 6,931.62, down 57.34 points on the week. In the broader market, advancing issues narrowly out-

paced declines by 1,270 to 1,210 on active volume of 478 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange. Weekly volume was 1,967,806,040.

The relative quiet of the broad market masked a tumultuous session for technology stocks, which met with stiff selling.

Weakest among blue-chip stocks was International Business Machines Corp., which fell 3-1/2 to 137-3/4.

The pressure was even more severe among semiconductor and networking stocks, as investors stepped back to re-evaluate the formerly high-flying, high-growth sectors.

"People are pulling a little bit off the table here," said Barbara Marcin, vice president at Citicorp Asset Management. "Over the last couple of months, these stocks got a little ahead of themselves." One

problem facing investors is the lack of a convincing reason to commit new money to equities so soon after their torrid January rally, analysts said.

"For too long, markets have been pretty much going straight up," said Edgar Peters, chief investment strategist at PanAgora Asset Management Inc. "What's been happening lately is prices have been growing faster than earnings."

Concern about technology's outlook has been particularly sharp because companies in the sector often trade at high earnings multiples, which makes for volatile price swings.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond rose 6/32, or 1/875 on a \$1,000 bond, reducing its yield to 6.64 percent from 6.65 percent on Thursday. Bond prices and yields move in opposite directions.

Key Representative Rates

US DollarNIS 3.3520 +0.03%

SterlingNIS 6.3222 +0.47%

MarkNIS 1.9851 +0.23%

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Index	Last	Change
DJ Industrial	6931.62	+4.42
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DJ Comp	223.74	+3.14
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NYSE STOCKS

CRITIC'S CHOICE

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

JEST veteran Arthur Ingram stars as aging solicitor Arthur Kippa and six other characters in Stephen Mallatrat's thriller *The Woman in Black*, with Jonathan Gillis playing the young Kippa. Gifted director Kelly Hartog promises "an evening of nail-biting tension, and she'll probably deliver." The Jerusalem English Speaking Theater production opens tonight at Gerard Behar at 8.

DON'T Dress for Dinner, the long-running West End hit farce by Marc Camoletti about adultery, cooking, and trickery down on the farm, tonight in Jerusalem at the Sherover Theater and tomorrow in Rebecca Crown, both at 8:30 p.m.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Stanley Sperber leads the Haifa Symphony Orchestra in Saint-Saens's third (Organ) symphony and the three dance episodes from Leonard Bernstein's *On the Town* while Pierre Amoyal plays Bruch's first violin concerto, tonight, tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday at the Haifa Auditorium (8:30). Avner Itai leads the Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra and the Inud Choir in the requiems by Faure and Mozart tonight in Givat Brenner and Thursday at Kibbutz Kinneret (8:30).

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★ **MICHAEL COLLINS** - Neil Jordan's big, bloody epic takes place in that cataclysmic period of Irish history between the failed Easter Rebellion of 1916 and the assassination of Collins (played here by Liam Neeson) six years later. Harsh, beautiful and sometimes confusing, the film crams an incredibly messy and complex history into a little over two hours, a feat which is both impressive and a bit troubling. On the one hand, viewers unfamiliar with the intricate ins-and-outs of Irish political history are treated to a breathless but vivid crash course. On the other hand, Jordan has streamlined the plot and characters considerably in order to make the elaborate saga comprehensible as drama. Under normal cir-



Adultery, cooking, and trickery are the themes in "Don't Dress for Dinner," tonight in Jerusalem and tomorrow in Tel Aviv.

cumstances these little fictions would constitute no great cinematic crime. But in the particular charged case of IRA history, a director who takes such liberties comes uncomfortably close to revisionist mythmaking. With Aidan Quinn, Alan Rickman, Stephen Rea and Julia Roberts, (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Not recommended for children.)

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

Five on the Roof is a new original Israeli children's drama series, starting today at 4 p.m. on Channel 1. The heroes are five children who spend their time conducting scientific experiments in an attic and who repeatedly foil the attempts of three crooks to start up schemes which damage the environment. In today's episode, Yuval's neighbor complains that the neighboring factory is polluting the air. When the five go to investigate they discover suspicious things going on and meet their nemesis for the first time. With Hanan Goldblatt, Natan Natanson, Michal Elizman and others.

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:51 News in Arabic
6:55 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Herzl and Desires
8:30 Desires
9:00 Geography
9:20 Nature
9:30 English
9:40 Programs for the very young
10:15 Social Sciences
10:45 Arithmetic
11:10 English
12:00 Mathematics in Daily Life
12:30 Social Sciences
13:00 In the Heat of the Night
14:00 Surprise Train
14:20 Kitty Cat and Tommy
14:35 Babar the Elephant
15:00 Pretty Butterfly

CHANNEL 2

15:30 Motomice from Mars
15:50 Booby - a crime
16:00 Five on the Roof - original series about five children who carry out experiments in their lab in an attic
16:25 Northwood
16:45 Super Ben
16:55 Zap to Basel
18:50 A New Evening
17:34 Zappy Improvisation
18:15 News in English
ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Amal and Kamal Studio
19:00 News in Arabic
19:00 News
19:30 News flash
19:31 With Tom and David
20:00 News
20:10 A Second Look
21:30 Personal Story
22:00 The Camera's Quilt
22:30 World Soccer
23:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 3

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Yogi Bear
6:55 This Morning - with Gabi Gazit and Rika Michael
8:55 Soccer
10:45 Dynasty (rpt)
11:40 L.A. Law (rpt)
12:30 Genie and the Captain
13:00 Open Cards
14:00 Echo Point
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 The Flintstones
15:30 Dave's World
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:00 News magazine with Ravi Reshaf
17:30 Click - dating show hosted by Kati Ofr and Nir Fridman
18:00 Roseanne
18:30 Can't Hurry Love
18:30 Crazy Candy
19:15 Backwards
20:00 News
20:30 Duki Topaz
22:30 Ravi Reshaf - talk show
23:20 Band of Gold - part 6
00:00 News
00:05 Band of Gold - continued
00:27 Moonlight
1:25 Beards About
1:50 On the Edge of the Shelf

JORDAN TV

14:00 Holy Quran
13:00 Johnny Quest
14:30 Problem Child
15:00 French programs
16:00 Global Family
16:30 Energy Express

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

16:15 The Thirst of Years
17:00 Weekly Column
18:10 Amores
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Documentary in Russian
20:00 News
20:45 Teleset
21:15 Blah Blah
22:30 The Duchess of Duke Street
23:00 The Ray Bradbury Theatre

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 All Together Now
16:00 The Heart of Things
16:30 Information Bank
17:00 Zombi
17:30 High-Tech Culture
18:00 Cybermews
18:30 Media File
19:00 Herzl and Zionism
19:30 Vis a Vis
20:00 A New Evening
20:30 Destination
21:00 Star Trek: The Next Generation
21:45 Family Life - a realistic look at a mentally disturbed girl. Directed by Ken Loach
22:30 Jerusalem in Art

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

8:00 Dallas
8:00 One Life to Live
8:45 The Young and the Restless
10:30 Days of Our Life (rpt)
11:00 The Nanny
12:00 Zingara (rpt)
12:45 The Streets of San Francisco
13:35 Duet
14:00 Dallas
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 The Nanny
16:00 Hercules
16:45 Zingara
17:30 New York Daze
18:00 One Life to Live
18:45 The Young and the Restless
18:50 Local broadcast
20:00 Who Yael Met Gabriel - documentary about the visit of television superstar Gisel Cordo in Israel
20:50 Third Rock from the Sun
21:15 The Single Guy

SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Roads to the South (French, 1978) - a Spanish political drama returns to Spain to investigate the wife's death. With Yves Montand, Mimi and Laurent

PRIME TIME TV

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19:30	News flash With Tom and David	News	Local broadcast When Yael Met Gabriel	Her Last Chance	Married with Children	Roseanne	Defenders of the Wild	Shoahwater
20:00	A Second Look	Duki Topaz	Third Rock from the Sun The Single Guy	Jag	New in the Cinema Double Deception	Roads to the South	Beyond 2000	Shoahwater
21:30	Personal Story	Ravi Reshaf	Law and Order					
22:00	The Camera's Quilt							
22:30	World Soccer							

Malet, (96 mins.)
23:40 The Magician (Swedish, 1958) - a dark parable by Jay Leno
3:00 MSNBC
Intermittent Weekend
4:00 Frost's Century (96 mins.)
5:00 Open University - Archaeology; Music of the Spanish Jews; Triumphant Return (23:35)
5:30 Delicious Europe - Spain (rpt)
6:00 Our God the Conductor (rpt)
6:30 The Good the Bad and the Ugly (rpt)
6:50 Cyberspace (rpt)
7:00 Delicious Europe (rpt)
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7:00 Squash: Women's World Championship
8:30 Inside PGA Golf Tour
9:00 Cricket week
9:30 Sports Illustrated
10:00 Tennis: ATP Tour
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RADIO

VOICE OF MUSIC

8:00 Morning Concert
8:30 L. Mozart
Symphony in G for 4 horns and orchestra
C.P.E. Bach: Fantasia in F sharp minor for keyboard and violin obbligato (Dreyfus, Melkus); Beethoven: Piano trio in C minor op. 13; Mendelssohn: Symphony no. 12 in G minor (Schubert); Rachmaninoff: Piano concerto no. 3; Stravinsky: Pulcinella
12:30 Light Classical
13:00 The Week - Israel Philharmonic at 80. Rossini/Faust: La boutique fantasque; Dukas: The Sorcerer's Apprentice (cond. Solti, recorded 1950)
14:05 Encore - works by Paul Ben-Haim
15:00 Beethoven: Leonora Overture no. 1; Schumann: Symphony no. 6
16:00 Music for Sunday - Bach: Cantata no. 12 in G major; Brahms: Symphony no. 9
20:05 From Our Concert Halls - Israel Philharmonic Orchestra cond. Christoph von Dohnanyi, soloist Olati Bar (baritone), Schubert: Andante from Symphony no. 10, Songs; Mahler: Symphony no. 1
23:00 Sounds to End the Day

BBC WORLD

News on the hour
6:05 Horizon (rpt)
7:25 India Business Report
8:30 Britain in View (rpt)
9:20 This Week
10:05 Correspondent (rpt)
11:30 The Clothes Show (rpt)
12:05 Heart of the Matter (rpt)
13:20 Window on Europe (rpt)
14:05 The Heart Awakes (rpt)
15:05 Breakfast with Frost
16:30 Holiday (rpt)
17:05 Horizon (rpt)
18:20 Earth Report (rpt)
18:30 Film '97 (rpt)
19:30 Top Gear (rpt)
20:20 On The Record
21:20 Window on Europe (rpt)
22:05 Nelsed City - London's city
23:30 Tomorrow's World (rpt)
00:00 World Business Report
2:10 The Money Programme
3:00 Asia Today

CNN INTERNATIONAL

News throughout the day
6:05 Both Sides with Jesse Jackson (rpt)
6:30 Evans and Novak
7:30 Global View
8:30 Style with Elsa Kirsch
9:30 World Sport
10:30 Science and Technology Week
11:30 Computer

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Asia Sport Show

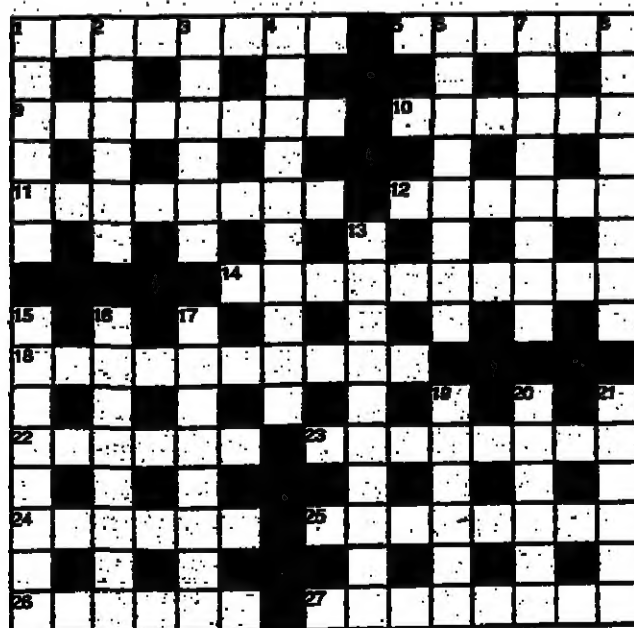
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Play about cider-maker's connection (5)
- 5 An officer of the law makes little money (5)
- 9 Many, continually sweet-talk, finding only disdain (8)
- 10 Some liver retaken into custody - a real beast! (6)
- 11 Hard-working bosses without financial commitment (8)
- 12 Being more orderly, Diana will get involved in the row (6)
- 14 A capital military leader (10)
- 18 Allowance for expansion (10)
- 22 Grows fat and fit on board (6)
- 23 An Amerind headed back - sensible, that (8)

DOWN

- 1 Charge a couple of hundred to operate (6)
- 2 Cheat and blackguard come to an agreement (6)
- 3 Protection for the pupil (6)
- 4 Check outside right - such temerity! (10)
- 24 Woman cooking Al meal (6)
- 25 Nobility and restraint when mature? (8)
- 26 Range of formerly temporary accommodation (6)
- 27 Making a crack about always showing respect (8)



SOLUTIONS

ACROSS
1 Argos, 4 Nought, 9 Gadget, 10 Steam, 11 Soda, 12 Gadget, 13 Tea, 14 Soda, 15 Soda, 16 Soda, 17 Soda, 18 Soda, 19 Soda, 20 Soda, 21 Soda, 22 Soda, 23 Soda, 24 Soda, 25 Soda, 26 Soda, 27 Soda, 28 Soda, 29 Soda, 30 Soda, 31 Soda, 32 Soda, 33 Soda, 34 Soda, 35 Soda, 36 Soda, 37 Soda, 38 Soda, 39 Soda, 40 Soda, 41 Soda, 42 Soda, 43 Soda, 44 Soda, 45 Soda, 46 Soda, 47 Soda, 48 Soda, 49 Soda, 50 Soda, 51 Soda, 52 Soda, 53 Soda, 54 Soda, 55 Soda, 56 Soda, 57 Soda, 58 Soda, 59 Soda, 60 Soda, 61 Soda, 62 Soda, 63 Soda, 64 Soda, 65 Soda, 66 Soda, 67 Soda, 68 Soda, 69 Soda, 70 Soda, 71 Soda, 72 Soda, 73 Soda, 74 Soda, 75 Soda, 76 Soda, 77 Soda, 78 Soda, 79 Soda, 80 Soda, 81 Soda, 82 Soda, 83 Soda, 84 Soda, 85 Soda, 86 Soda, 87 Soda, 88 Soda, 89 Soda, 90 Soda, 91 Soda, 92 Soda, 93 Soda, 94 Soda, 95 Soda, 96 Soda, 97 Soda, 98 Soda, 99 Soda, 100 Soda, 101 Soda, 102 Soda, 103 Soda, 104 Soda, 105 Soda, 106 Soda, 107 Soda, 108 Soda, 109 Soda, 110 Soda, 111 Soda, 112 Soda, 113 Soda, 114 Soda, 115 Soda, 116 Soda, 117 Soda, 118 Soda, 119 Soda, 120 Soda, 121 Soda, 122 Soda, 123 Soda, 124 Soda, 125 Soda, 126 Soda, 127 Soda, 128 Soda, 129 Soda, 130 Soda, 131 Soda, 132 Soda, 133 Soda, 134 Soda, 135 Soda, 136 Soda, 137 Soda, 138 Soda, 139 Soda, 140 Soda, 141 Soda, 142 Soda, 143 Soda, 144 Soda, 145 Soda, 146 Soda, 147 Soda, 148 Soda, 149 Soda, 150 Soda, 151 Soda, 152 Soda, 153 Soda, 154 Soda, 155 Soda, 156 Soda, 157 Soda, 158 Soda, 159 Soda, 160 Soda, 161 Soda, 162 Soda, 163 Soda, 164 Soda, 165 Soda, 166 Soda, 167 Soda, 168 Soda, 169 Soda, 170 Soda, 171 Soda, 172 Soda, 173 Soda, 174 Soda, 175 Soda, 176 Soda, 177 Soda, 178 Soda, 179 Soda, 180 Soda, 181 Soda, 182 Soda, 183 Soda, 184 Soda, 185 Soda, 186 Soda, 187 Soda, 188 Soda, 189 Soda, 190 Soda, 191 Soda, 192 Soda, 193 Soda, 194 Soda, 195 Soda, 196 Soda, 197 Soda, 198 Soda, 199 Soda, 200 Soda, 201 Soda, 202 Soda, 203 Soda, 204 Soda, 205 Soda, 206 Soda, 207 Soda, 208 Soda, 209 Soda, 210 Soda, 211 Soda, 212 Soda, 213 Soda, 214 Soda, 215 Soda, 216 Soda, 217 Soda, 218 Soda, 219 Soda, 220 Soda, 221 Soda, 222 Soda, 223 Soda, 224 Soda, 225 Soda, 226 Soda, 227 Soda, 228 Soda, 229 Soda, 230 Soda, 231 Soda, 232 Soda, 233 Soda, 234 Soda, 235 Soda, 236 Soda, 237 Soda, 238 Soda, 239 Soda, 240 Soda, 241 Soda, 242 Soda, 243 Soda, 244 Soda, 245 Soda, 246 Soda, 24

Portugal to publish Nazi gold figures

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Under pressure to trace Nazi gold shipments it reportedly handled during World War II, the Bank of Portugal says it will publish figures on its wartime gold movements by the end of April.

The figures will represent "the bare, objective facts" of gold transactions and will be followed up by a preliminary written report in early October explaining the transactions, bank governor Antonio de Sousa said.

"No one is more interested than us in making sure that relevant information is made available as soon as possible," de Sousa said last week in a meeting with reporters.

Portugal, as well as Spain and Switzerland, has been researching the question of wartime transfers of Nazi gold since US Senator Alfonse D'Amato raised the issue through an investigation last year by the US Senate Banking Committee.

A historian employed by the central bank is currently investigating the "vast and disorganized" archive, but a commission will be created in March to aid the research, de Sousa said.

"The commission, embracing experts in history and representatives from national Jewish organizations, will set specific goals for the research and will help answer questions," de Sousa said.

He declined to give a progress report on the research launched at the end of last year.

However, he denied claims that Portugal shipped Nazi gold to Argentina during the war.

Shimon Samuels of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said last week that Portugal transferred about 300 gold bars to Argentina between December 1, 1942, and

October 17, 1943.

"In fact, we only bought gold from Argentina. The gold we purchased remained in Argentina but was earmarked for us and that is where the confusion has arisen," he said.

He added that the reports of gold transfers from Portugal to Argentina were the result of "hurried research" by groups hunting for Nazi gold.

D'Amato said last week that fresh evidence unearthed in the US National Archives show that 79 truckloads of Nazi gold were sent by Switzerland to Portugal between January 1942 and May 1944.

Samuels last week expressed dismay that the Portuguese central bank had appointed only a single historian to comb through its 14 kilometers of archives.

Samuels said after visiting the bank that "the world demands a certain promptness on this global issue."

Commissions have been set up in several countries to discover the fate of billions of dollars in gold and other valuables confiscated from the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

In Sweden, on Friday, the government appointed seven people, including a concentration camp survivor, to a commission investigating what happened to Jewish property that came to Sweden before and during World War II.

The commission is separate from a central bank investigation into whether gold that may have been stolen by the Nazis remains in the bank's reserves.

Sweden, like Switzerland, was neutral during the war. The commission says its report will be ready in March 1998.



The play's the thing

Canadian philanthropist Neri Bloomfield gets a helping hand from five-year-olds Alona and Arela of Eilat in trying out Gan Neri, a playground built in the new neighborhood of Ganai Canada in Eilat. Bloomfield was one of 100 Canadian donors who visited the neighborhood made possible by their donations to the Jewish National Fund.

(Ariel Kozlovitski)

Jewish Agency demands that government keep religious status quo

By Jerusalem Post Staff

A Jewish Agency committee called on the government on Friday to refrain from passing any legislation that would change religious laws or the religious status quo.

The Committee for the Unity of the Jewish People, of the Agency's Board of Governors, also expressed its opposition to any change in the Law of Return, calling it "one of the ways of identification of the Jewish people with the State of Israel."

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg set up the committee in 1996 to represent the Jewish world before the government on topics concerning religious legislation. The committee has representatives from all Jewish streams in Israel and abroad.

The committee's decision came after a stormy meeting in which representatives of the Mizrahi, Orthodox-affiliated movement clashed with Reform and Conservative representatives.

However, the committee finally accepted the compromise resolution Burg suggested.

The committee's demands are contained in a document to the government entitled, "Preservation of the Unity of the Jewish People."

The document will be presented today to Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who is the government's representative in the matter.

During Friday's meeting, another Burg proposal was accepted: to set up a special

team with representatives from all Jewish streams as a framework for discussions on all topics concerning Jewish unity and cooperation between Jewish religious movements here and abroad.

"We must be an example, and show our ability to cooperate and work together, despite the natural differences among us," Burg said.

The committee also decided Friday that Burg will be its sole representative before the government and other authorities.

Foreign Ministry to send Bulgaria aid

In light of the crisis in Bulgaria, Foreign Minister David Levy has instructed his ministry to dispatch emergency aid to Sofia as soon as possible. The ministry is sending about one ton of medical supplies today as a humanitarian gesture to ease the shortage of medicines in Bulgarian hospitals.

Ambassador to Bulgaria David Cohen is to receive the shipment and transfer it to the Bulgarian Red Cross, which will then distribute the medication to hospitals throughout the country.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Levy leaves for China, Japan today

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Foreign Minister David Levy leaves on an official visit to China and Japan today for talks on expanding ties and the peace process.

The visit to China is being held to mark five years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Levy and his host, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen signed the agreement establishing ties in 1992.

Levy is to meet with Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng, and will hold a series of meetings with Qian, with whom he will sign a cooperation agreement between the two

foreign ministries, and will exchange letters regarding the status of the Israeli consulate in Hong Kong when the Chinese take control there in July.

Levy's meetings will take place immediately after the funeral for Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, who died Wednesday.

Talks will focus on the peace process, and he will ask the Chinese to expand the positive role they have played on the multilateral track.

Israeli officials are pleased with the recent improvement in relations with China, but Levy will seek to further develop trade, which currently stands at \$240 million.

He also plans to press for

increased agricultural cooperation, and will visit a highly successful collective farm in the Beijing region.

Levy will travel to Tokyo on Wednesday, where he will hold a series of talks with Japanese leaders. Levy has also been invited to meet with the Japanese emperor and his wife in their palace.

Japanese Foreign Minister Rukikiko Ikeda will host Levy for a state dinner, and he will also meet with Japanese Prime Minister Hashimoto Ryutaro.

Levy also hopes to focus on economic relations during his visit to Japan. On his way to China, Levy will also visit with Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen.

Scientists find new way to separate isotopes

By JUDY SIEGEL

A new technique for separating isotopes, based on an application of quantum theory, has been developed at the Weizmann Institute.

The discovery, says the Rehovot institute, opens up new industrial uses in a variety of fields, including advanced chemistry, genetic engineering, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and medical equipment.

The technique was developed by Dr. Ilya Averbukh, a chemical physicist who immigrated from the CIS five-and-a-half years ago and joined Weizmann's staff. It was reported in the latest issue of *Physical Review Letters* and reviewed in *Physics Today*. Yeda,

the institute's research and development arm, has applied for a patent on the new technique.

Isotopes are different "versions" of the atoms of various elements, differing in the number of neutrons in their nuclei. Different isotopes of the same element are thus equal in their chemical composition, but different in their weights and often in other physical properties (such as radioactivity). The ability to separate various isotopes is very important in the chemical, pharmaceutical and other industries and many other fields of scientific research.

For decades, methods of separating isotopes have been based on repeated "filtering" or the use of centrifuges. But these techniques, says Averbukh, are very expensive,

relatively slow and not highly accurate. During the past 25 years, highly effective laser methods were introduced to separate isotopes, but their use is limited by the need to fine-tune the laser beam to one particular isotope, which makes these techniques quite expensive.

Averbukh's idea is based on quantum theory, which is one of the most proven scientific theories but also one of the least tangible. Among its principles are that one can never know simultaneously the location and speed of movement of a particle. Thus, a particle being or not being in a certain place is a matter of probability, and cannot be scientifically proven.

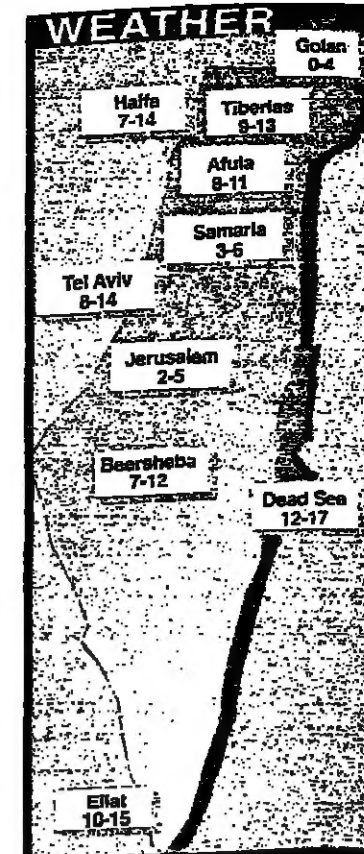
Under certain conditions, say quantum theorists, there is no choice but to presume that a single particle exists and doesn't exist in a number of places at the same time. An electron that revolves around the nucleus of a certain atom seems to observers like a "probability cloud" spread over a relatively large area, rather than a single particle.

The Averbukh method is referred to as "wavepacket technology," because it makes use of wavepackets — a quantum-theory concept describing particular states in which electrons, atoms or

molecules can be found. Different isotopes' wavepacket patterns are like a distinctive "fingerprint." Wavepackets lose shape, spread and disintegrate over time. But Averbukh, together with his then-Soviet colleague Dr. Naum Perelman, discovered that wavepackets can reappear, sometimes as several smaller and identical "probability clouds." Each isotope follows its own cyclic pattern, which appears as a unique "fingerprint."

Applying a very short pulse of laser light to a mixture of two different isotopes, they are caused to form wavepackets. At the exact second when wavepackets of the two isotopes look different, a second laser pulse is applied to ionize one but not the other. The ionized isotopes are simply pulled out of the mixture using an electric field. In experiments conducted with scientists from Canada, two different isotopes of bromine were successfully separated.

Averbukh believes that in addition to isotope separation, wavepacket technology can be used to control chemical reactions, and even to develop ultra-fast switches that turn off and on a trillion times a second, or 1,000 times faster than the fastest ones available today.



Forecast: Rainy, snow in the Hermon northern mountains. During the night - snow in central mountains.

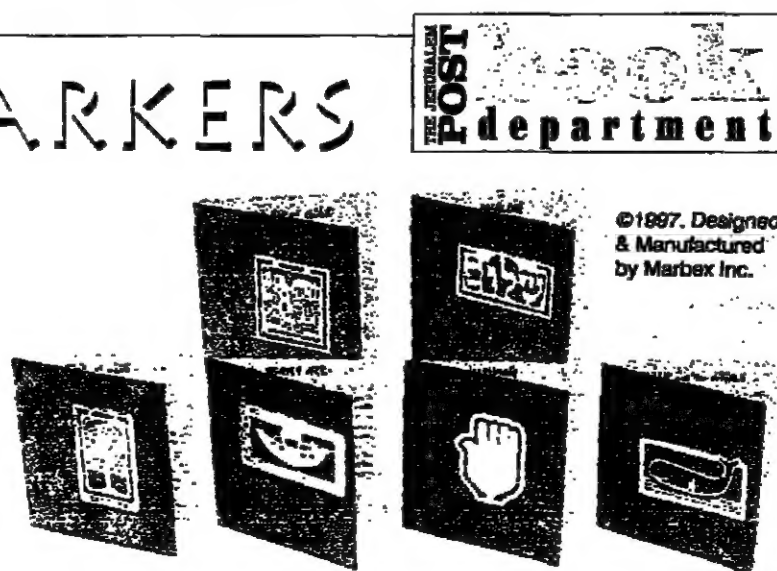
AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	F	C	HIGH	F
Amsterdam	06	41	12	54	clear
Berlin	04	39	10	52	cloudy
Buenos Aires	19	66	19	84	clear
Chico	08	46	17	62	cloudy
Chicago	06	41	13	56	cloudy
Frankfurt	08	46	17	62	cloudy
Geneva	06	41	13	56	cloudy
Helsinki	08	46	17	62	cloudy
Hong Kong	16	61	19	66	clear
Jakarta	11	52	12	54	cloudy
London	10	50	13	55	cloudy
Los Angeles	11	52	12	54	cloudy
Moscow	06	41	13	56	cloudy
Montreal	06	41	13	56	cloudy
New York	06	41	13	56	cloudy
Paris	06	41	13	56	cloudy
Rome	06	41	13	56	cloudy
Sydney	06	41	13	56	cloudy
Toronto	06	41	13	56	cloudy
Vienna	06	41	13	56	cloudy
Zurich	06	41	13	56	cloudy

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